Daily Report

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FBIS-LAT-93-011 *19 January 1993*

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Perez Elected Vice President at Human Rights Conference

FL1901032493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Today, Cuba was elected as vice president of the regional conference on human rights, which was inaugurated in Costa Rica with the attendance of representatives of more than 30 countries. At the opening ceremony of the forum, which is preparatory to the second UN World Conference on Human Rights, Costa Rican Foreign Minister Bernd Niehaus said that peace in the region would only be possible if the fundamental rights of the people are guaranteed. Among those rights, the head of the Costa Rican diplomacy mentioned education, health, and the complete enjoyment of individual liberties without any type of discrimination.

Costa Rican Minister of Justice Elizabeth Odio was elected as president of the regional conference on human rights. Ambassadors Jose Perez Novoa, from Cuba, and (Celmira Ragasoli), from Argentina, were elected as vice presidents. [passage omitted]

Ambassador Jaramillo on Presidency of G-77

PA0701183993 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 6 Jan 93

[Telephone interview with Luis Fernando Jaramillo, Colombian ambassador to the United Nations in New York City, by Dario Arizmendi—live]

[Text] [Arizmendi] Luis Fernando Jaramillo, Colombia's ambassador to the United Nations and former foreign minister, has been appointed president of the Group of 77 [G-77]. The G-77 no longer has 77 members, but it has kept the name. It is a group of countries that used to be in the so-called Third World; countries that were neither very powerful nor entirely poverty-stricken which had something of a third place in terms of world influence.

Good morning, Mr. Luis Fernando Jaramillo. What is the G-77?

[Jaramillo] The group formed by the Third World countries, developing countries, has been operating for approximately 30 years. These countries decided to unite and form a common front in the face of the developed world, the rich countries. This year Colombia has been elected president of the group and it must coordinate the efforts of the developing countries in discussions of all major policies at international forums.

Colombia will be responsible for coordination not only here in New York, where the coordination center is located, but also in Paris, Vienna, Geneva, and Rome. The G-77 coordinates Third World policies at each of these capitals in which economic institutes or agencies have offices.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Jaramillo—I was about to call you Mr. Minister—as in our country we are used to calling you that as you have headed two or three ministries.

[Jaramillo] Correct.

[Arizmendi] Mr. Jaramillo, besides the honor of presiding over the G-77, what else can this mean for Colombia?

[Jaramillo] It is not only an honor but a great responsibility to coordinate the group. I believe the important part of this is that, through the presidency and the coordination and presentation of documents and proposals, Colombia can influence the new international order in political, economic, and other fields so it is shaped and executed in accordance with our interests. This gives us the opportunity to speak, be heard, and have a forum from which the country can express its ideas and viewpoints. As coordinator we have influence so Colombia's ideas and viewpoints may get to form part of the context in which everything is being discussed these days: in the economic field.

[Arizmendi] Has there been an important decision from the G-77 in the last few years that we could point out as an example of the power it represents?

[Jaramillo] Yes, of course. For instance, all the discussions at the environment conference have been very important. The G-77 always had a position at that conference regarding the discussions of Agenda 21, which was the result of the Rio de Janeiro conference. The G-77 prepared the document used as a basis for discussion and the main positions on each of the environmental topics, discussed them with the developing countries, reached an agreement with them, and finally the so-called Agenda 21 of Rio de Janeiro was adopted through consensus among the G-77 and the developed countries.

[Arizmendi] When do the formal sessions begin, that is if the G-77 has formal sessions? What will your first task be in January, Mr. Jaramillo?

[Jaramillo] The transfer of power will be carried out on 12 January here in New York, and we will immediately begin discussing the UN reforms and the agenda for peace. Those two topics must be discussed immediately. The first involves the UN Security Council reforms, the UN Assembly General reforms, and the UN Secretariat General reforms. This topic was first brought up in 1992, and it is being thoroughly discussed at the United Nations.

The second topic is UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali's agenda for peace, which includes all the various forms of intervention in world conflicts. This is particularly important because it involves a conflict between developed countries' concept of sovereignty and developing countries' concept of sovereignty. Developing countries believe sovereignty is an untouchable issue in international law, whereas developed countries

have a more flexible concept of sovereignty, meaning it allows intervention and should be limited. We think this is an untouchable issue in international law.

[Arizmendi] I understand. Mr. Jaramillo, the ducks are about to take to the water in Colombia, to quote former President Carlos Lleras Restrepo when referring to the proclamation of presidential candidacies or the announcement of presidential hopefuls. Will you be one of the ducks taking to the water?

[Jaramillo] Well, I think that, [pauses] for the past year I have served the president and the government, and in 1993 I will dedicate myself fully to serving the president and the government from the United Nations, which is one of the most important forums in the world, particularly in light of the new role assumed by the organization.

[Arizmendi] In other words, you will continue to serve in the diplomatic corps and you will not return to become involved in politics?

[Jaramillo] No, I am duty bound to help the president and support him from this position in the United Nations.

[Arizmendi] As long as the country does not call you, as the politicians claim.

[Jaramillo] Well, we have dedicated ourselves to serving the country for some time. We have served the country in several posts. Right now I am doing it at the United Nations, and the important thing is to be able to serve the country and the Colombian people in one way or another to solve the enormous number of problems afflicting them.

[Arizmendi] Yes, sir. Dr. Luis Fernando Jaramillo, thank you.

[Jaramillo] Thank you.

Region's Ministers Sign Custom Reform Protocol

PA1401184393 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 10 Jan 93 p 6

[Report by Carlos Garcia Urrea]

[Text] Guatemala, 10 Jan—Guatemalan Economy Minister Gustavo Saravia has reported that several regional agreements were approved during the 15th meeting of ministers in charge of Central America's economic integration and regional development.

The official gave his first news conference and said this was the first time he had attended a meeting of this forum this year. Saravia had to preside over the meeting, which was held in Guatemala.

Saravia said the meeting's main achievement was the signing of the Protocol to Modify the Uniform Central American Customs Code (CAUCA) [Protocolo de Modificacion al Codigo Aduanero Uniforme Centroamericano]. The protocol is subject to ratification by the regional congresses or legislative assemblies to allow it to be implemented shortly.

The economy minister explained that CAUCA is an instrument that reforms and speeds up customs operations in Central America. It allows for improved operations to further international trade.

Saravia said the protocol was important because all the Central American countries had signed it; thus, none would remain on the sidelines in implementing it.

The ministers agreed to implement the Central American Tariff System, SAC [Sistema Arancelario Centroamericano], in the five Central American countries. The SAC will replace the existing Central American Uniform Tariff Nomenclature on 1 March 1993. The import tariff will be reduced as of that date.

The integration ministers agreed to adopt new nomenclature in the five countries. Such an action will further the regional process of openness and entering the world economy.

Savaria stated that the Costa Rican minister had promised that his country would approve the nomenclature as soon as possible. An agreement was signed to this effect and Costa Rica promised to join SAC on 1 March. If this should not occur, SAC will continue with the four remaining countries that approved it, Saravia added.

Likewise, it was agreed that on 1 March, the Central American Regulation on the Origin of Merchandise, the Unfair Trade Practices Regulation, and the Safeguard Clause would come into effect.

The first regulation would regulate issues related to the increase of merchandise in Central America. The second regulation will dictate measures to be adopted in those cases where unfair trade practices may threaten the region's productivity.

Saravia stated that the ministers would take on other issues of common interest such as the reactivation of the General Treaty Executive Council, and the negotiations with Mexico and Venezuela, which are aimed at reaching free trade agreements.

Cuba

Castro Meets With FSLN's Daniel Ortega

FL1501192393 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Daniel Ortega, the general coordinator of the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] of Nicaragua, met this morning with Cuban and foreign reporters here in Havana. Our reporter Mario Huber Garrido was present.

[Garrido] The future of Nicaragua, the situation in Central America, bilateral relations, and the international climate were some of the topics dealt with at the news conference given by FSLN National Coordinator Commander Daniel Ortega at the National Press Center. Asked about his meeting with Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, Daniel Ortega said the following.

[Begin Ortega recording] We also talked about very specific issues that have to do with relations between Cuba and Nicaragua. There is a contingent of about 900 Nicaraguan scholarship students who have been in Cuba for a few years, and they have been abandoned by the Nicaraguan Government. We want the Nicaraguan Government to shoulder its responsibility toward these 900 Nicaraguan students who came to Cuba under a government to government agreement that was signed during the administration of which I was president. [end recording]

Other issues the FSLN coordinator touched on concerned the points our revolutions have in common, the siege of the Latin American countries by neoconservativism, and the changes that are occurring in Cuba in the midst of this siege.

[Begin Ortega recording] We must also stress that in the midst of the siege, and even as the siege is being intensified, Cuba has been making changes. Cuba has been making changes since it opened up to foreign investment, to foreign co-investment. This is important and should be stressed. Cuba has also been making changes in the domestic sphere by shifting management of elections, whose terms and execution were done by the party. This has been shifted to the people. This has been shifted to the mass organizations. I think this is a profound change which is being experienced right now in Cuba and which we should stress. [end recording]

Finally, referring to a specific proposal by the FSLN to restabilize the country, Daniel Ortega said: We are certain that we will return. But to do this, we have to win the fight for jobs, education, and health care for the Nicaraguan people.

Foreign Companies Interested in Oil Exploration

PA1601010293 Havana Radio Havana Cuba in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] An article in CUBA INTERNACIONAL magazine reports that Mexican, Canadian, British, and French companies have started negotiations with Cuban authorities to obtain oil exploration permits in various parts of the island.

According to the article, specialists for the Cuban Oil Enterprise stated that there are proven conditions for oil exploitation in Cuba, which produced over 800,000 tons of crude in 1992. Even though the current national production of hydrocarbons is not enough to meet the country's energy needs, which reached 13 million tons in 1989, the Cuban Government has designed a strategy to reduce the effects of the oil deficit caused by the Soviet Union's disintegration. The Soviet Union was Cuba's main supplier of crude oil.

The CUBA INTERNACIONAL article states that Cuban authorities base this special strategy on greater exploitation of the country's hydrocarbon resources. This will be achieved through the internationalization of Cuba's oil platform, by associating with foreign companies and negotiating risk contracts.

Central Army Sums Up 1992 Defense Achievements

FL1901030493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The annual defense preparation resume of the Central Army says Cuba made significant progress in increasing its defensive capacity in 1992 despite the conditions of the special period. That meeting was presided over by Major General Joaquin Quintas Solas, head of the Central Army. An acknowledgement of the work of the population of the five central provinces was also drawn up during the meeting, since the levels of combat preparedness grew, and instruction tasks were carried out well with lower costs. In 1992, the Central Army tripled the length of the civil defense tunnels built in 1991, and the progress made in all spheres of work is the result of cohesion, which constitutes the foundation for achieving even greater results within the idea of the war of all the people.

Commentary on U.S. Haitian Blockade

FL1601180893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1255 GMT 16 Jan 93

["Our Opinion" commentary by Orlando Contreras]

[Text] An AFP dispatch, datelined Miami and received this morning at our office, has reported that two Haitian ships, carrying 211 people, were intercepted on 15 January by the U.S. Coast Guard, who have launched, for the first time, a security force around Haiti to prevent a mass exodus of refugees. That is the gist of the AFP dispatch.

Another part of the same dispatch explained that the White House said on 15 January that the security force in waters around Haiti was decided on in accordance

with ASIC [expansion unknown], current policies, and in conjunction with President-elect Bill Clinton's team.

According to AFP, the operation was carried out by 22 Coast Guard and Navy ships and supported by 12 airplanes and helicopters, a force superior to all the air and naval equipment in Haiti, which is the poorest country in America and one of the 15 poorest countries in the world.

This fact is not insignificant. The extreme poverty in Haiti is the result of a prolonged policy of U.S. intervention, which began in a direct way during the first decades of the century and was maintained through political support and economic domination throughout almost this whole century up to two years ago when Jean-Bertrand Aristide, who did not have the support of the U.S. Administration, was elected. Aristide, as is known, was deposed in a coup d'etat by people closely related to the former Duvalier regime, which everyone knows had U.S. support.

In a recent OAS meeting, the doctrine, sponsored by the United States, was promoted stating that the only acceptable form of government in Latin America and the Caribbean is democracy. Mexico was the only country to vote against this doctrine. According to the model imposed by Washington, this includes brutal governments that violate human right such as in Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, etc., with the only condition that they carry out periodic elections without any true democratic validity, and that they take political positions similar to the United States. The United States also advocated the creation of a supranational interventionist force.

The Haitian drama will not be resolved by military intervention but through real political and diplomatic negotiations and support for self-determinationism of the Haitian people, an issue that was not viable during the end of the [word indistinct] democratic government of Arisitide. This U.S. military deployment around Haiti could be the prelude to more extensive military actions. In essence, it is not just a matter of the current dictatorship in Haiti, but that it has not obtained complete control of the internal situation, thereby allowing the exodus of Haitians seeking economic help, those who are apparently searching for a better life in the United States, given their precarious living conditions.

On the other hand, it creates an extremely dangerous precedent for the cardinal principles of international rights, such as self-determination, respect for sovereignty, and noninterference in internal affairs.

The Bahamas

Two Groups of Cuban Refugees Rescued

FL1601183193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1607 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Jan 16, CANA—The Bahamas Defence Force on Thursday [14 January] brought seventeen Cubans, including a two-month- old baby, to Nassau. This is the second group of Cubans to turn up in the Bahamas this week, the defence force said.

The 17, including a one-year-old boy and an extended family of six, were stranded on remote Anguilla Cay after the 32-foot motor boat in which they fled their town of Villa Clara Caibarien on January 7 broke up on beaching.

They were evacuated from the Cay by a fishing boat, which took them to Cay Sal and turned them over to a defence force contingent stationed there.

On Sunday, eight Cubans were removed from Cay Sal, where they had been deposited by the U.S. Coast Guard cutter, Seahawk. The four men, two women, a boy, and a girl were stranded on the double-headed Shot Cays, where they were spotted by a Coast Guard cutter.

Both groups have been turned over to Bahamian immigration.

Haiti

Aristide Coordinator Adrien on Clinton Address

FL1501214793 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Interview with Father Adrien, coordinator of the Aristide presidential commission, by correspondent Renois in Port-au-Prince; date not given]

[Text] Several reactions were noted in Port-au-Prince following the address by the U.S. president-elect. Reactions are slow and sometimes reluctant from the political parties. Statements on the crisis and the proposals for solutions will be examined by the nine parties joined together to demand the resignation of the Bazin government. A meeting of the nine parties is planned for today.

There is neither disappointment nor joy in Aristide's camp in Port-au-Prince. Father Antoine Adrien, in charge of negotiating on behalf of the ousted president, calls on everyone to make an effort to find a solution that cannot be anticipated in a speech.

[Begin recording, in Creole] [Adrien] I think that if we really want things to change, if we really want to see the situation evolve, it is essential, as far as I am concerned, and we are taking seriously, that efforts are made so that we can progress a little in the crisis.

[Renois] Can you say that you are disappointed, Father Adrien, with Clinton's address? Were you expecting a firmer speech?

[Adrien] I am not at all disappointed with Clinton. There is no reason for being disappointed. I think that he said things that everyone predicted. No, I am not disappointed.

[Renois] Father Adrien, as the coordinator of the presidential commission, does this commission still have a reason for being, since Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide has made various personal statements regarding the crisis?

Also, do you have contacts with several Army officers regarding the negotiations and what clear sign did they give you on their position?

[Adrien] I did not receive any signs. I acknowledge that. I did not receive any signs from the Haitian Army. I do not think that the Haitian Army wants to do that. For me, I do not see how we can count on any efforts from the Haitian Army so that we may progress in the crisis.

Reportage on 18 Jan Senatorial Elections

Antonin Reacts to Clinton Statement

FL1501175993 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Arnold Antonin, second in command of the Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti [PANPRA] and Senate candidate for the Department of the West, has criticized the State Department's statement relating to the 18 January elections. According to Antonin, this statement is a serious interference in the country's internal affairs. The PANPRA leader, however, thinks the reason why this statement has been made so late is to prevent the cancellation of elections. Another comment made by Antonin is that Bill Clinton's statement has come to soften what the State Department has said.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] However, other considerations should be made. In making the statement so late, this certainly means that these men have made it to prevent the elections from being held. In my opinion, it is something they have done on behalf of President Aristide [words indistinct]. President Aristide has asked the people who are leaving the country because the situation is too difficult for them not to leave the country, and that they will acknowledge the elections within the scope of the global plan of negotiations. [sentence as heard]

Third, there is something extremely important that one should see: President-elect Clinton just made a statement that greatly softened the position of the State Department. He did not mention elections. On the contrary, he said he reaffirmed the continuation of Bush's policy on the boat people issue and asserted that the solution must result from negotiations among the Haitian parties, smoothly, without violence. While defending the position of national sovereignty of the country on such an issue, which has nothing to do with international humanitarian rights, I think that we must not dramatize anything. In fact, the State Department has waited a long time before making its statement on the issue of elections—until it has seen that the electoral process is irreversible, until it has seen that many people are going to register—especially in the provinces and even in such Port-au-Prince areas as [words indistinct], etc. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Restrictions on Voting Procedures Noted

FL1501211693 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] In four days, elections will be held throughout the country to replace nine senators whose mandates have expired and one who died and [to renew] several positions for deputies who died or are in districts where elections were not held. With the approach of these elections, the electoral council has published a press release in which it reminds all those who are interested in the elections of the provisions of the electoral law on elections.

The council notes four articles of the law including Articles 102.1, 103, 103.1, and 103.2 on political meetings, electoral meetings, publication of information on the tendency of the elections, publication of polls, and electoral forecasts. Political meetings are prohibited 24 hours before the opening of the Registration and Voting Offices [BIV's]. The press may not publish results of the voting before the BIV's post declarations on their doors, and it is only at the end of the electoral campaign that the polling and projection centers may publish the results of their work.

Political Parties Seek Cancellation

FL1501225993 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Excerpts] The immediate departure of Marc Bazin and the cancellation of the 18 January elections are the two resolutions that a group of nine political parties, that met together, has published. The Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Haiti [previously Democratic Revolutionary Party of Haiti, MODELH-PRDH], the Haitian Social Christian Party, [words indistinct] the Mobilization for National Development, the National Cooperative Action Movement, the Haitian Party of God [PARADI], the National Agricultural and Industrial Party of Haiti, the Assembly of Christian Democrats, and the Union of Patriotic Democrats, who met with the press on the morning of 14 January at the Christopher Hotel, stated that the consensus government has not obtained the goals it had announced and that on the contrary it has made the country more isolated on the diplomatic front and has caused the deterioration of all the institutions and the economy of the country. It is because of these failures that they have asked the government to quickly step down so another government—that can enjoy the support of the main sectors of the national life—can be established.

The nine parties, who say they have noted many irregularities and arbitrary, immoral, and unconstitutional actions being committed in numerous institutions within the electoral council, especially in the choice of the members, in the parliament, etc., ask for the cancellation of the process that led to the formation of the communal and departmental assemblies and—eventually—to the electoral council. The parties say they will never participate in any election held by this electoral council because it is illegal.

On this subject attorney Francois Latortue of the MOD-ELH-PRDH said they are waiting for the decision of the court after the legal action they instituted yesterday against the Permanent Electoral Council members. For his part, Reverend Vladimir Richard Jeanty [leader of PARADI] asserted that if the people know what they are defending they will not participate in the 18 January elections. [passage omitted]

Attorney Latortue said that if they win the petition, they will stop the electoral process, but that if they do not, the parties will meet again to propose another solution. The nine political parties have gotten together to fight the 18 January electoral process and the Marc Bazin government, but they do not maintain the same position on a solution which might be adopted to resolve Haiti's political crisis. [passage omitted]

Benoit Calls For Total Boycott

FL1501225393 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in French 2000 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The National Congress of Democratic Movements [Conacom] secretary general, Victor Benoit is calling for a total boycott of the 18 January elections. Professor Victor Benoit compares the upcoming elections with the 1985 referedum by Jean-Claude Duvalier.

[Begin Benoit recording, in Creole] Political statement against the elections/appointment on 18 January 1992 [year as heard]. As Conacom secretary general, as the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD] spokesman, we declare: First, the elections/appointments that are scheduled for 18 January 1992 [year as heard] are very similar to the referendum made by Jean-Claude Duvalier on 22 July 1985, a referendum, ignored by the entire nation but that the government insisted on holding. Today, the de facto government has decided to do the same. That is why it has created a Permanent Electoral Council of exception that is there to appoint the senators whom the government will choose. Second, because the government knows that the people are not going to vote, it has chosen to hold the elections/appointments on a Monday, a weekday so that it will be at ease to make television clips of people on the streets, take pictures of people walking in the streets so that it can say that those people are voters. Third, for all those reasons, Conacom and FNCD are asking all their members, all their militants, sympatizers, the entire Haitian population, everyone who believes in democracy to make a sacrifice and stay home on Monday, 18 January. By doing so, they will show peacefully, and in an orderly fashion that they do not agree with the 18 January electoral masquerade. [end recording]

Voters, BIV Personnel Do Not Show Up

FL1901045993 Port-au-Prince Radio Tropic FM in Creole 1300 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The 19 June government announced that on 18 January, polling day, all activities would go normally. How is the atmosphere in the streets? Our reporters and correspondents will give us details. We will begin with Jeansoi Joseph who will talk to us about the situation downtown.

[Begin recording] [Joseph] All school activities are to be suspended downtown. We have not seen any students going to school. Traffic in the main street has slowed down. The stall vendors of the Tete Boeuf [Public] Market are not in their places, and the market remains closed. There are only Registration and Voting Office [BIV] activities in it, and military [police] wearing blue uniforms are ensuring safety. The president of one of the three BIV's in the Tete Boeuf Market, Frantz Mervilus, said that 64 people have been registered on his electoral register, but that so far, nobody has come to vote.

[Mervilus] We have materials here. The point is that there are no voters.

[Joseph] What would you like to add?

[Mervilus] What I would like to add is that we have three BIV's in the market, but only two of them are manned. Only two BIV's are operational. [Personnel of] the second BIV, who should be here, have not arrived this morning. I do not know what happened to them. I would like to add that I do not know whether they have sayed away because they fear panic. Thank you.

Furthermore, there are BIV presidents who are asking for information on how to draw the people out because they did not have time to hold seminars for them. In conclusion, we will say that it is only curious people who are following the situation in the streets from their homes. Jeansoi Joseph from downtown. [end recording]

Minimal Election Activity Noted

FL1801183493 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1315 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Live report by Rotchild Francois, Jr. from the streets]

[Text] Good morning to everyone. We have already visited several Registration and Voting Offices [BIV's] downtown. There is not much activity in those BIV's. Some BIV members have nevertheless had a difficult time this morning insofar as they did not have enough, they did not have ballot boxes and other things they need in order for the electoral operations to go normally. We have, however, visited about 15 BIV's. There is one BIV at the Immigration Service. The head of that BIV told us that many people have already voted, but we were there and we did not see many people when we arrived at the Immigration Service BIV. We also visited nine BIV's that are located in the former school of Vaillant Street of evil memory [where a massacre took place during the aborted elections of 29 November 1987]. We remember that. Well, there were not many voters in that BIV either.

The other point in the news resulting from these elections is the obvious slowdown of school activities. In some schools, the students have chosen to go home. They

have left the schools. Some students have nevertheless chosen to stay to attend their classes, but some teachers have not come to work today in some schools in Port-au-Prince. It is clear that there is a decrease in school activities. That is all we can say for the moment concerning the elections: there were not many voters in some BIV's that we visited. Some BIV's were facing problems. They did have materials to start up electoral operations.

Low Voter Participation Noted

FL1801223693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Report by provincial correspondents—recorded in Creole]

[Excerpts] Let us make a tour of Les Cayes, Saint-Marc, and Mirebalais to see how activities are progressing with the senatorial elections.

[Les Cayes correspondent] Contrary to what the people in charge of the South Departmental Electoral Office [BED] expected today, the city is not at all showing an electoral atmosphere. A very small number of voters have come to vote. Activities are paralyzed in Les Cayes. Business, public transport, and schools did not really function. The state offices are open but activities are very slow. In nearby communes such as Chantal, Saint-Jean du Sud, Camperin, Maniche, Cavaillon, the situation is the same. Despite the South BED communique which asked the population to cast their electoral cards, nothing has changed. In many offices that we visited, the number of voters did not surpass 50. However, some people believe that the number of voters will increase throughout the day.

On the other hand, members of the Southern Parliamentarian Union accuse the president of the South BED, Yves Aubourg, of undertaking crooked dealings during the elections. The members of the Southern Parliamentarian Union are asking that partial results of the elections be issued in the South Department. Otherwise, they will declare the elections null and void. [passage omitted] It was very difficult to ascertain the position of the South BED president regarding this matter. However, a source in the BED advises that such a decision comes from the electoral council which must issue the results. Yves Rousseau, candidate at the Senate contested the statements made by the South Parliamentarian Union that asked for partial results in the South Department. This is Duperval Joseph Frank in Les Cayes for Radio Metropole.

[Saint-Marc correspondent] Elections to renew one-third of the Senate are proceeding apprehensively, according to the Saint-Marc BED. At approximately 0600 all the voting offices were already open. According to the BED, there are 121 offices for the Saint-Marc commune. According to the BED Saint-Marc president, Ernst Fortune and the Registration and Voting Offices [BIV's] members, everything was going fine. Others told us that the proceedings were subdued. [passage omitted] When we went to the BIV's, they were all empty, without any voters. In Saint-Marc, schools are closed, public transport is very slow, and people are minding their own business. All offices were operating as usual. This is Leonor Exantus in the Lower Artibonite for Radio Metropole.

[Mirebalais correspondent] Early this morning, the process of renewing one-third of the Senate was indeed started in the Central Department, especially in Mirebalais. In the eight voting offices in the city and another one in Carrefour Peligre, in the Sarazin section, several members of those offices told us that many people have already voted. Others said that there were not too many. When we went to those offices, we did not see anyone voting.

Each office has military personnel, several rural policemen, and barracks attaches for security. We also noticed the presence of representatives of the political parties involved in these elections. There was a representative from the Alliance for the Liberation and Progress of Haiti of Reynold Georges and a representative from Senator Serge Gilles' Nationalistic and Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti.

On this 18 January, the streets are empty in Mirebalais. People are sitting and watching in front of their homes. Most of the people who made the roll did not vote. At this time, voting offices are open with the members and the military offering security. The state offices are also open except for the peace court. Students did not go to school and public transportation is nonexistent. Basically, elections during the first half of the day have been very quiet in Mirebalais. Maurice Miraxin in Mirebalais for Radio Metropole.

RDC's Volel Criticizes U.S. Government, Bazin

FL1801210593 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Eddy Volel of the Assembly of Christian Democrats [RDC] has reacted against the U.S. Coast Guard vessels which have surrounded the territorial waters of Haiti. The RDC says the Americans do not have the right to enter our seas. In the opinion of Eddy Volel, the United States has other business it wants to settle in the area. Let us listen to Eddy Volel.

[Begin Volel recording, in progress] ...again, the Haitian people find themselves struggling to have their willingness triumph. Whereas a number of crooked politicians are struggling for posts in the government and for their pockets without thinking of the people's distress, the RDC has condemned the attitude of Bazin, Belizaire, Cedras, and all those who participate in the mock elections of 18 January.

The RDC has also condemned energetically the dishonest actions of the U.S. Government which has violated our territorial waters and surrounded the country of Dessalines with vessels, planes, and helicopters. It

they [U.S Government] were settling people's and Jean-Bertrand Aristide's business, they would wait for the boat people in the Windward Passage and would have already come back with Aristide. The Americans are establishing spying activities in the Caribbean and are taking advantage of Baena Soares in the OAS and Dante Caputo in the United Nations to appoint as prime minister a henchman of the Pentagon and the Central Intelligence Agency.

In the meantime, opportunist politicians, specialists in rigged elections, are doing their best so as to have a friend of theirs appointed prime minister and—at the same time—to have the 27 March 1987 Constitution canceled. Even though they change their skins, snakes nevertheless remain snakes. Those, who are mad about being presidents, must be treated in a lunatic asylum.

In the dangerous situation which the country is experiencing now, as the Army is attached to Bazin, the Army will perish with Bazin. The RDC has maintained the call for a general strike on 18 January against Bazin's, Belizaire's, and Cedras' mock elections. This was Eddy Volel for the RDC. [end recording]

Army Favors Plan To Resolve Political Crisis

PA1701144593 Paris AFP in Spanish 0404 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 16 Jan (AFP)—The Haitian Armed Forces stated on 16 January that they are in favor "of initiating the implementation of the plan" proposed by UN and OAS mediator Dante Caputo, former Argentine foreign minister, to solve the country's crisis.

The Armed Forces General Command stated in a press release that Caputo brought "a proposal to end the crisis being experienced by Haitian society."

"The General Command guaranteed Caputo its support, within the framework of the Constitution and national sovereignty, by means of a dialogue with all sectors of national life, with the purpose of initiating the democratic process in Haiti, strengthening institutions, and rebuilding the economy," the press release states.

The UN and OAS mediator arrived in Haiti on 15 January on a 48- hour visit in search of a solution to the crisis.

Further on Plan

FL1801011293 Bridgetown CANA in English 0016 GMT 18 Jan 93

[From CANA's broadcast news summary for 18 January]

[Text] U.N. special envoy Dante Caputo says Haiti's Army has agreed to the deployment of an international observer force and an opening of talks aimed at reinstating democracy. The talks are seen as an important breakthrough in the nearly 16-month political crisis gripping the nation. Caputo, who spent Saturday in talks with the Army and Prime Minister Marc Bazin, said the deployment of the observer mission could begin as early as this week. He said he had received a letter from Haitian Army chief, Lieutenant General Raoul Cedras, agreeing to the civilian mission and to opening a dialogue to solve the crisis.

Caputo on Army Decision

FL1901045693 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The OAS and UN mediator, Argentina's Dante Caputo, former minister of foreign affairs, considered on 17 January, before leaving Port-au-Prince, that the Haitian Army's written agreement to his proposal for solving the crisis was a very important and positive step. A few hours before his departure for New York, the special representative of the UN secretary general told the press that it is an affirmative expression of good will. He said the Army agrees that violence is no longer a means of solving political conflict. Caputo said: It is about an agreement regarding my proposal for sending a civilian mission to ensure respect for human rights and for dialogue among the parties in order to solve the crisis and restore democracy. Furthermore, Dante Caputo told AFP that the first elements of this civilian mission—for which international financing must be quickly found—those first elements must begin next week in Haiti.

Caputo refused to discuss with journalists the details of the future negotiations, especially the question regarding the fate of General Raoul Cedras, the Army chief, or the problem of a possible return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Haiti. He did state that Haiti currently reflects the worst economic situation in the region, and that the restoration of democracy had to go hand in hand with economic development.

Further on Caputo Comments

FL1801154293 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Report on interview with Dante Caputo, special UN/OAS envoy, by correspondent Rothschild Francois in Port-au-Prince on 17 January]

[Text] The Army is lending its support to the establishing of a plan aimed at progressing democracy. A press release from Army Headquarters advises of the meeting between the Army High Command and the UN and OAS special envoy. During the exchanges, Dante Caputo informed the Army about a solution being proposed to put an end to the crisis that the Haitian society is facing. Rothschild Francois Junior filed a report.

[Begin recording] [Francois] Upon leaving Port-au-Prince on 17 January, the UN and OAS mediator looked obviously encouraged by the results of his second mission to Haiti regarding the crisis. Dante Caputo takes with him two documents which represent the government's word and the one of the Army: First, there is the sending a civilian mission to Haiti to oversee the respect

of human rights, and second there are the agreements obtained by the Argentine diplomat to establish a process of political dialogue aimed at restoring democracy in Haiti. To that effect, Caputo also announced he received a letter from the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Haiti. The UN and OAS emissary clearly explained that some thorny questions such as the possible return of Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the fate of General Cedras were not discussed during the conversations with Prime Minister Marc L. Bazin and Gen. Raoul Cedras. On the subject of the international civilian mission, the Argentine diplomat announced that the first observers could arrive in Port-au-Prince in the following days.

[Caputo] Those two elements, the civilian mission and [words indistinct] are included as well in the letters of Gen. Cedras, Bazin, and the Chamber of Commerce. Our goal was to find agreement on a mechanism and a procedure to start the negotiations.

[Francois] Has the Army accepted the presence of civilian observers?

[Caputo] Yes, yes.

[Unidentified journalist] Has Bazin given you a letter in which he authorizes the civilian mission?

[Caputo] Yes, he demonstrated his agreement on the civilian mission. We are going to work tomorrow in the United Nations and the OAS on the mission. The number essentially depends on the length of time that will be decided.

[Francois] Mr. Caputo, have you talked about the possible return of Father Aristide to Haiti?

[Caputo] I did not want, as I told you a while ago, to go into the nature of the problems. We agreed on general procedures, on the civilian mission. The real work starts now.

[Francois] When do you think the negotiations will start then, Mr. Caputo?

[Caputo] I do not know yet. Thank you.

[Francois] The UN and OAS emissary also pointed out that the Army agreed that violence was no longer a means to solve political conflict. In the letter addressed to Caputo, the head of the Army gave his support within the framework of the Constitution and national sovereignty and through dialogue for the starting of a process aimed at allowing democracy to progress in Haiti as well as for the reinforcement of institutions and the rebuilding of the national economy.

When questioned on the senatorial elections to be held on 18 January, the UN and OAS mediator clearly showed his disappointment. Dante Caputo asserted that the ballot damages the parliament's image. He also thinks that those elections will increase the difficulties within the scope of the negotiations. The UN and OAS mediator also talked of the understanding and the cooperation that the head of the consensus government Marc L. Bazin as well as Gen. Raoul Cedras showed during the conversations. Dante Caputo, who left Port-au-Prince on 17 January, will file a report on his mission to Haiti on 18 January to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali. [end recording]

Government Announces Proposal for UN, OAS Envoys

FL1501175893 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] In Haiti, the Council of Ministers, meeting on 13 January, discussed the negotiation files. During this meeting, the Haitian minister of foreign affairs pointed out that the negotiations have been going more rapidly the past 48 hours. The government, which says it is seeking effectiveness rather than publicity, has announced that it is determined to reach a solution that will put an end to the [word indistinct] of the boat people, allow the country to move toward democracy and economic development, and solve the boat people drama, which is now causing major problems. The government, which feels it is not necessary to make any statements on how the negotiations will go, says it will submit its proposal to the UN and OAS special envoys who will arrive in Port-au-Prince today.

'Indigenous Army' Claims Responsibility for Explosions

FL1501180193 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] We learned this morning that an explosive device blew up last night, 14 January, in Port-au-Prince, but produced neither damage nor victims, according to reliable sources, reports AFP. The location of the explosion, which was heard in several neighborhoods in Port-au-Prince at 0400 GMT, has not been determined. A second, weaker explosion reportedly occurred shortly after the first one, according to some witnesses. It should be recalled that on 4 December, three devices exploded in Port-au-Prince without causing any damage or claiming any victims. On 23 November, three homemade bombs exploded in Port-au-Prince while being carried, and the accomplice was seriously wounded. Police attributed these unclaimed attacks to networks of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide partisans. Today we learn that a group called "Indigenous Army" claimed responsibility for the explosion or the explosions last night.

Trinidad and Tobago

Government Supports U.S. 'Air Assault' on Iraq

FL1801122193 Bridgetown CANA in English 1819 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Port of Spain, Trinidad, Jan 18, CANA — Trinidad and Tobago said the United States air assault

on Iraq was justified because the Baghdad Government was violating United Nations sanctions.

"(While) we in Trinidad and Tobago ... regret the act of war... because we find it such a tragic waste of human lives and resources..., the fact of the matter is that (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn continues to be defiant," said Foreign Affairs Minister Ralph Maraj. "He has so far not heeded the conditions that were set down at the end of the war between he and the allied forces," Maraj added, referring to the 1991 "Desert Storm" war between Iraq and allied forces.

"He continues to violate, for example, the condition for the no-flying zone. He refuses to allow inspections in Iraq and he is reported to have made incursions into Kuwait, once again violating the sovereignty of that country."

The parliamentary opposition United National Congress said while it supports the UN's sanctions against Baghdad, it bemoans the loss of innocent lives and the destruction of property. In a statement, the party said it hopes that the conflict which has emerged, would not escalate out of control.

Official Foresees No Policy Changes After Trade Agreement

PA1501183493 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by Eda Chavez]

[Text] Paris, 14 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Foreign Secretary Fernando Solana Morales denied in Paris on 14 January that his country is going to change its foreign policy toward Latin America following commercial integration with the United States and Canada, once the North American Free Trade Agreement is signed.

"Mexico will continue to be substantially a part of Latin America. (Mexicans) are Latin Americans and want to continue to be," Solana indicated. He is in Paris to attend the signing of the treaty banning chemical weapons.

The official reiterated the commercial interests with the United States and Canada will not "intimidate" Mexico's foreign policy at international forums.

"We will continue to be emphatic and clear in our foreign policy, and that is demonstrated by our votes in the OAS, United Nations, and our commercial negotiations with the Pacific and Latin America," Solona noted.

Mexico's international stance is very clear, he added, since relations with other countries are governed based on our historic principles.

He explained, however, the "transformations of the past years in Mexico and the world have lead to adjustments in objectives and strategies, although fundamental principles will always remain unchanged."

He stressed his country wishes to strengthen commercial and economic relations with the countries of the continent's Southern Cone.

Solana recalled the first free trade agreement Mexico signed was with Chile in 1992, and it has lately established agreements with Colombia, Venezuela, and Central America to diversify its presence in the world." [no opening quotation mark as received]

The Mexican Government recently signed a third generation [tercera generacion] agreement with the EC and started negotiations in earnest with Pacific basin countries.

In addition, the official said his country is opposed to the "attempts of intervention and alleged meddling, which is synonymous with intervention."

"We oppose meddling. Each country must resolve its own problems. There are, of course, international responsibilities that are well regulated by international law," he said.

Solana stated Somalia, ravaged by famine and tribal warfare, "constitutes a very special case of humanitarian aid that must not set a precedent," because it was conducted with the participation of military forces headed by a single power (the United States).

He felt the UN Security Council is no longer in tune with the times because it responds to the historical context of the end of World War II in 1945." [no opening quotation mark as received]

"It goes without saying that a Council where only five countries have a permanent seat and veto right could be more democratic," he indicated, adding that Mexico would like to see the international organizations become more democratic.

Speaking at a UNESCO forum, Solana censured that the five powers with the right to veto at the United Nations are the chief producers and exporters of weapons. During his three-day stay in Paris, the Mexican official met with Federico Mayor, UNESCO general director general, to review the agenda of Mexico's programs in this organization.

Fernando Solana Morales also met with OECD Secretary General Jean-Claude Paye "to assess Mexico's rapprochement with the forum of the 24 most industrialized countries of the planet."

* Basanez Sees Four Succession Scenarios

93CA0044A Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 30 Nov 92 pp 1-A, 10-A

["The Presidential Succession of '94" commentary by Miguel Basanez, pollster and chairman of board of directors of DOPSA, which publishes Mexico City monthly ESTE PAIS]

[Text] The presidential succession is the most delicate element in the Mexican political system, not so much because of its intrinsic importance, but rather, because of the inherent risk of political instability. For many years, the country operated based on the charitable belief that the president was the best informed person in the country. And yet, the people have gradually discovered the real truth about disinformation and presidential vulnerability. In the end, he is alone in the presidential palace. There is growing distrust in decisions and as a result, participants and spectators alike are increasingly worried.

The limitations and imperfections of the Federal Executive Branch are in no way confined to Mexico. Rather, they are shared by all presidential systems, in both democratic and authoritarian countries. What is typical of the latter, however, is the absence of institutions providing a balance and counterweight to offset presidential excesses and defects. Whence the chaotic endings to the last four six-year terms beginning in 1968, 1976, 1982, and 1987.

The election of any leader always attracts the attention of the group. This is a human, anthropological, primary response that occurs in all countries. But is a waiting

period of over two years the general rule? Is it healthy? Does it benefit anyone? Can it be avoided? The answer to all four questions is no.

The presidential succession is decided more by the circumstances than it is by the people's will. Whence the interest of Los Pinos [official presidential residence] insiders in exerting influence over the shaping of events or, at least, the president's perception of those events. Control of the agenda, travel, and news briefings, as well as of government machinery, makes this possible. And yet, in order not to neglect the element of free will, there is nothing like the privilege of psychic timeliness: Choosing what to say, who says it, how and when, all more effective than bedside psychiatry in helping undeclared contenders for the ruling party's candidacy discover the president's personality flaws.

Many analysts avoid the issue in order not to fuel sterile speculation. Public and private personalities do so formally, but remain uneasy about it. There is a growing desire among leaders to exclaim "Down with the King!" or "Long live the King!" This desire conceals a legitimate search for certainty. Concern over the succession is not the cause, but rather, the effect of the sickness.

Why should uncertainty over the succession give rise to so much concern? Is it not assumed that this is what makes the creative fertility of democracies? Such concern in Mexico stems from the conviction that the appointment of the successor is a mysterious, unpredictable, whimsical act. At least, that is what we are used to.

As far as circumstances are concerned, Mexico has four possible scenarios at the end of the six-year term. The first is optimistic. Its "luminous" realization required a Bush victory, immediate signing of the NAFTA [Northern American Free Trade Agreement] and a vitalization of stock exchange investments of Americans in Mexico. This would have been a resounding economic victory for the Salinas Administration. Even though this scenario did not disappear from the scene, it lost its sheen with the Clinton victory and is now less likely. If it had occurred, the candidate of national and foreign businessmen, the secretary of Finance, would be unstoppable.

The second scenario is "average" and depends on the degree to which some of the boost for the NAFTA, investments, or the economy could be recovered. It not be the victory sought by the government, but at least one would end up with room to maneuver. None of the real factors would impose itself on the president and the latter could leave his candidate.

The third is a "pessimistic" scenario. It would result from a collapse of the economy that would drag the rest of the country along with it, with an ending a la 1981-1982. If the Administration's main asset, i.e., the economy, fails, then political conflicts and social demands may get out of control. The presidential weakness would make it easier for the candidate of the chief adviser, the social secretary, to prevail.

The fourth scenario is "chaotic" and derives from the third. It would take place as a result of the sharpening of the economic collapse and political conflict. There would be two ways out, both extreme: one timely; the other risky. The first might generate a unified presidential candidacy of the PAN [National Action Party] and PRD [Party of the Democratic Revolution]. The second would be an attempted coup.

Only an opposition candidate acceptable to both national and foreign businessmen will have real possibilities. He could not do without the support of both parties and therefore could not come from the PAN or PRD. The ambassador in Spain, the presidential adviser, or the mayor of Mexico City would be the possibilities to consider.

The element of risk related to an attempted coup could come from the defeat of the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party]. We could not have another "collapse of the system" after the experience of 1988 and given the current activism of observers and the degree of international attention that the 1994 election will receive. The unity of the Army and the position of the United States would be key elements if there were any attempt to cancel elections.

The likelihood of any one of the four scenarios mentioned is neither uniform nor static. Nor is it capricious or absurd. Far from changing, its original formulation ("Fifth Crisis?" ESTE PAIS, May 1992, folios) has grown stronger and been refined. The following percentages of probability could be assigned to the scenarios today: 10, 40, 45, and 5.

It is a fact that democracies are very slow to make executive decisions, which are highly vulnerable to pressure from money and very imperfect in their protection of the common good. It is a fact that governments emanating from young, authentic, idealistic revolutions that emerged from the very social base as an ideal response to a specific circumstance are far more vital and fertile.

This is what happened in France, Mexico, the United States, and many other countries in the case of their own revolutions, each in its own time. But revolutions also age and when they die, take with them the legitimacy they initially bestowed upon their governments. Faced with this great vacuum, we are left with the imperfection of democracies. At least they provide an atmosphere of plurality and competence so that society, with its volatile alternance of states of mind, can try to check corruption, injustice, and abuse. Their capacity to do so is very poor; that of authoritarianism is nil.

El Salvador

Cristiani Says Officers Denied Opportunity for Defense

PA1601215793 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani stated the commission evaluating the Armed Forces officers in accordance with the peace agreements did not give 102 affected officers the opportunity to defend themselves. This commission was formed to purge the Salvadoran military forces.

We should not criticize the objectivity of the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission, Cristiani noted, adding that he does believe in the right these officers have to be heard and (?defend themselves).

On 31 December, Cristiani should have discharged or transferred all the officers included on the list issued by the Ad Hoc Commission. UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali told the UN Security Council that Cristiani only partially applied the measures.

According to his report, Cristiani appointed seven of these officers in posts abroad and intends to keep another eight in their posts until his presidential mandate ends in May 1994.

Government Demobilizes Pantera Battalion

PA1601121293 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] On 15 January, the government demobilized the counterinsurgency Pantera Battalion, operating out of the installations of the 1st Infantry Brigade in San Salvador. During the ceremony, was presided by Colonel Julio Cesar Grijalva, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigage, the 520 soldiers that comprised the Pantera Battalion handed over their weapons and expressed their satisfaction for having served the fatherland. Col. Grijalva said that since the Pantera Battalion was founded in January 1983, it played an important role in the war against the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Army To Implement Voluntary Recruitment Program

PA1801232493 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1230 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] By virtue of the peace agreements, as of 18 January the Army will implement voluntary military recruitment in six of the country's main garrisons. General Mauricio Ernesto Vargas will explain this new program.

[Begin recording] [Vargas] We are calling on all citizens between 18 and 30 years of age, who must comply with their constitutional duty of obligatory military service. The citizens must report to authorities in the departmental capitals and voice their wishes to comply as soon as possible with this constitutional duty. They must register, as there is a limited number of openings in this first call. They must undergo medical examinations and present their birth certificates. They will be told about the new obligatory military service, which will last approximately 12 months.

[Unidentified reporter] General, recruitment is now voluntary; later on it will be done by lottery. What mechanism is established by the law that was approved?

[Vargas] The law establishes voluntary military service by lottery drawing. These are the methods to be implemented by the National Recruitment and Reserves Department, which will prepare the lists for the departmental capitals, where the recruitment and reserves offices will be established. Individuals will go to these offices to register, either voluntarily or by lottery. [end recording]

That was Gen. Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, Army deputy chief of staff, who also said that so far the Army is reducing by 52.2 percent, which is equivalent to 32,000 troops of a total 73,185 enrolled up to the end of 1991.

Handal Commemorates Anniversary of Peace Agreements

PA1701225693 San Salvador Radio Farabundo Marti Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Jan 93

["Excerpts" of speech by Jorge Shafik Handal, leader of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, at the ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of the signing of the peace agreements at La Libertad Plaza in San Salvador—recorded]

[Text] Names and circumstances must be revealed. That is absolutely necessary for reconciliation. There cannot be reconciliation unless we know what happened, who was responsible, and who committed those crimes. There cannot be reconciliation if people who suffered are not given the opportunity to seek justice.

Therefore, compatriots and companeros, reforms in the Armed Forces to make it a trustworthy institution compatible with liberty and the people's rights is still a topic of debate and struggle, and will continue to be a central point of debate and struggle for some months. This is good. It is good, because the agreements that have not been fully complied with are related to the Armed Forces. I will give you an example: The order issued on 31 December—I am referring to the regular order, not the other one related to the Ad Hoc Commission—announced the appointment of four commanders in the area of military intelligence. These commanders have records that make them unsuitable for those positions. [applause]

Unfortunately, those names were not included in the list prepared by the Ad Hoc Commission because there was

not enough time for the Commission to investigate everything. The commission could only conduct partial investigations, therefore, some names were omitted. This includes an officer who has been appointed director of the National Intelligence School, where new intelligence personnel will be trained. This person has a very bad record concerning human rights violations in our country. [applause]

Another person with the same characteristics was appointed chief of the G-2 of the Armed Forces Staff, in charge of intelligence matters. This is another person with a very bad record.

Another individual with the same characteristics was appointed chief of the G-5 of the Armed Forces Staff, in charge of psychological and political warfare matters. Why does the Army have to have political and psychological wars after the signing of the peace agreements? [applause, someone shouts: Murderous military officers, out! Crowd chants: Out! Out! Out!]

Finally, another person with the same characteristics was appointed commander of a military intelligence battalion. A new structure was created known as the Military Intelligence Battalion. This will be the new name for the former National Intelligence Directorate, which should have been totally dissolved because there is no need for it within the context of the mission the Constitution assigns the Armed Forces, which is limited to defending our sovereignty and territory. The Armed Forces do not have any functions related to internal peace and security. According to the constitutional amendments, the Armed Forces have nothing to do with the actions of citizens. Those functions were assigned to the National Civil Police, which is being created with a new concept, new personnel, and a new doctrine. [applause]

The battle to correct this action in the area of intelligence is as important or possibly more important than the mission of the Truth Commission to purge the Army. We cannot let things remain the same. We must prevent and stop this. This can only be done by the Salvadoran people.

Assembly Rejects Pardon Request for Killers of Jesuits

PA1601180293 San Salvador Radio Venceremos Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] The Legislative Assembly has rejected a request for pardon by the Society of Jesus in favor of two soldiers sentenced to 30 years for the murder of six Jesuit priests and two maids. Jose Maria Tujeira, provincial leader of the Society of Jesus for Central America, presented the request.

Legislator Hernandez reported that a legislative commission studied the request and decided that it was not viable because the law states that persons making such requests must be Salvadoran citizens. According to Legislator Hernandez, Tujeira has dual citizenship—he is a Honduran and a Spanish citizen—so the petition cannot proceed.

Guatemala

Minister Says Country To Remain Neutral in Gulf

PA1601215993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 Jan 93 p 3

[Excerpt] Foreign Relations Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park asserted on 14 January the Guatemalan Government will remain neutral regarding the armed conflict in the Persian Gulf.

The foreign minister explained during an improvised news conference held at Congress that the government is worried about the commencement of an armed conflict between the allied countries and Iraq.

Menendez Park said: Guatemala is a country with a peace avocation. He later added that it will not take sides or intervene in the conflict. The foreign minister said he preferred not to comment on the matter. [passage omitted]

Army Denies U.S. Troops To Carry Out Exercises

PA1901005593 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 17 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—The Guatemalan Army denied on 17 January that the U.S. Army is carrying out military exercises in this country.

The Army Information and Press Department (DIDE) issued a communique rejecting the information, released in Honduras on 16 January, and said that the activities to be carried out by approximately 236 U.S. soldiers are public works.

DIDE said the U.S. soldiers are already in the Salama region, in the northern part of the country, where they will dig wells for potable water, open roads, repair a hospital, and build several schools.

According to the Guatemalan Army, the plan under way by the U.S. Army is called "Fuertes Caminos 93."

According to the information released in Honduras, which was attributed to U.S. sources in that country, approximately 5,000 U.S. soldiers will carry out joint exercises in Guatemala and Belize.

DIDE clarified, however, that the activities to be carried out will not be military exercises, but welfare activities, and that only 236 soldiers will participate, with support from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Government Recognizes Czech, Slovak Republics, Slovenia

PA1601201193 Paris AFP in Spanish 0304 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] Guatemala City, Jan 12 (AFP)—The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry announced on 12 January that the government has recognized the Czech and Slovak Republics and Slovenia as "free and independent states," with which it will soon establish diplomatic relations.

Guatemala supports the "legitimate aspirations of independence, sovereignty, and self-determination" of the three new European states, the Foreign Ministry communique stated.

It was officially reported that the following new accredited ambassadors will present their credentials to President Jorge Serrano on 14 January: Manuel Pineiro Souto (Spain), Constantin Ftilas (Greece), Alan Pascal Nazareth (India), Orachum Tanathong (Thailand), and Franciscus Bendictus Maria Van Haren (Netherlands).

Serrano Gives State of Nation Address

PA1601123193 Guatemala City Radio and Television Networks in Spanish 1600 GMT 14 Jan 93

[State of the nation address by President Jorge Antonio Serrano Elias at the National Congress in Guatemala City—live]

[Text] Dear friends of the national and international community present at this event.

In compliance with Article 183 of the Constitution, I wish to present to the honorable Congress the report on my second year in government, which I conclude on 14 January.

On this same occasion I would like to say clearly that the basic goal of our administration has been the welfare and development of the living conditions of the Guatemalan people, something that must not just be a major guideline of our actions, but should be the dynamics prompting us to act with diligence.

A year ago I told you this year would be the year of social investment. We have indeed made efforts to break social investment records. During the past year, we reached the 1.2 billion quetzal mark of social infrastructure investments. However, this is not enough. Three fundamental aspects prevented us from making greater investments.

Problems in our country's traditional bureaucracy were the first obstacle. The lack of projects that had to be drafted during this period was the second obstacle. Finally, the lack of financing by international credit institutions prevented us from making more investments. The investment made with our own funds, however, was the largest in our history and is the result of the joint work accomplished through the understanding and effort of each of the Guatemalan people.

We also broke a national record in the area of education during the past year. We hired 3,750 new teachers and 342 new supervisors, who do not only go to the various communities as supervisors but as advisers in the education process.

The socio-linguistic map to strengthen bilingual education was completed. This is part of the ambitious programs we intend to implement in 1993. A total of 1.363 million children were given school cookies [special vitamin-enriched cookie distributed to school children]. For the first time in history, 36,000 primary school teachers received teaching materials they needed for the school year. This means the government is showing respect for the teachers and is backing them in their duties.

We can also proudly say that a total of 1.3 million bags of school supplies were handed out to all school-age children. A total of 23 million bus tokens were also distributed. We can proudly say that beginning this year, any school-age child can ride an urban transportation bus just by wearing a school uniform and presenting an identification card. This means the state is facilitating access to schools. It is an unprecedented action in the history of our country.

We have done a reclassification of positions, giving dignity to teachers associations. We also ordered an unprecedented salary increase in the education sector, which consumed over 80 million quetzals in the second semester of last year.

During the last period, we also refurbished 393 schools and built new ones. Approximately 2.6 million people have benefited from the refurbishing of the aforementioned schools.

In the area of health, I am pleased to announce that we have reversed the disastrous trend at the Health Ministry. Today, we are happy to tell the entire nation that 40 percent of the 1992 budget was devoted to preventive medicine in the most remote and poor areas of the country. This was basically covered with the budget increase, without neglecting other requirements established in the regular budget.

In addition, 1.25 million children were vaccinated against measles. This placed Guatemala as the first country to fulfill its regional commitments. During the past year, no cases of polio were reported. Fatalities due to diarrhea, one of the illnesses that has affected our country most, was reduced by 20 percent last year. Additionally, 102 new health centers, which benefited 2.1 million people, were opened in 1992. Four regional hospitals were completed last year. They are the hospitals in Retalhuleu, Quiche, Huehuetenango, and Antigua. In addition, the construction of the Tiquisate Hospital began.

Today, I must thank Congress for approving the new Law for Performing Contracts. I think that this new law and its regulations will expedite social investment in the country, eliminating old obstacles, which were thought to act against corruption, but in reality acted as true bastions of corruption in the country.

Today, I am happy to announce that in 1993 [year as heard] we invested 450 million quetzals in road construction. We paved 245 km of road and 450 km currently are being paved. We filled potholes in 3,350 km of roads and built and repaired 1,250 km of rural roads.

Among the most important works in the consciousness of Guatemalans is the reconstruction of the Nil, Moca, and Coyolate bridges. These three bridges on the Pacific highway regrettably were destroyed by the guerrillas in terrorist and premeditated actions. With the effort and money of all Guatemalans, we were able to repair the aforementioned bridges to serve our people and the development of the region.

We also built the [words indistinct] in El Zapote.

We concluded the stretches of highway from Jalpatagua to (Muyuta), from Barbanera to Santa Cruz Naranjo, roads that had been expected and wanted many years. We are going to inaugurate the Vista Hermosa intersection. We completed the Chiquimulilla-Ciudad Pedro de Alvarado highway. The San Jose-Ixtapa highway is under construction and about to be finished. We are also building and are about to complete the Rio Hondo-Santo Tomas de Castilla highway, the Hincapie-Villa Canales-Villa Nueva highway, and the Panajachel, Chichicastenango, Tecun Uman, Ocos, Modesto Mendez, and San Luis junctions. A road system that has existed throughout our history will fully integrate, starting in January, these territories with the rest of our beautiful country.

Finally, we have contracts for roads in Rancho Rio Hondo, Quezaltenago, San Carlos Sinja, and the work has begun. We have to sign a contract for the Palin-Escuintla road. In the field of communications we purchased transmission, exchange, and networks for an additional 250,000 lines, which will be in operation in 1993. Of these lines, 125,000 lines will be operation in Guatemala City. We purchased 175,000 news lines in the interior of the country, and 80,000 of these will be in operation in 1993. Our long distance exchange system, which comprised 600 lines through the Quetzal Central Ground Station was increased by an additional 600 pairs with the start of operations of the [name indistinct] network center. We will double this number again this year.

In the field of energy, we are satisfied to say there were no blackouts this year. The first blackouts of this year are taking place today, owing to yesterday's regrettable, unjustified, and censurable terrorist attack. While some destroy, however, we, Guatemalans of good faith, continue to build. We finished the new 50,000-kw thermal plant. We repaired existing equipment of 150,000 kw in Laguna, Escuintla, and Augacapa. We installed the west-central transmission line for 230,000 kw. In other words, this makes a total of 51 million quetzals.

We also want to say to those who have used the topic for their demagogic purposes, that 15 percent of the energy generated in the country comes from private companies and is the result of agreements signed with the Inde [National Institute of Electrification]. Today, I also want to explain and state before my people, that any person, institution, or company that wants to produce energy is free to do so. There is no energy monopoly in the country. Any company that wants to distribute energy can do so freely. There is no monopoly in the distribution of energy in the country, considering that the Constitution bans private or state monopolies.

Another fundamental aspect in this area is that we can credit the improvement of our finances in large part to the elimination of our subsidies. This is a healthy and consistent measure. We are not going to subsidize towns with resources to the detriment of towns that lack resources and anxiously await for better living conditions.

We have made a big effort in the field of security, and we have achieved positive results in some areas of crime.

We are not completely satisfied, however, and we are doing everything possible to provide more technology and modern equipment for our security forces. As for the case of vehicle theft and drug consumption in the country, we cannot be satisfied because there has been an increase in both areas and we are going to fight it.

As for the case of vehicle theft, we recently signed an agreement with all Central American presidents in Panama. We agreed to use a single vehicle registration certificate for the entire Central American area. All countries of the area are also adversely affected by this crime.

As for the case of drugs, we have signed agreements with countries that are also adversely affected by this evil, which has to be resolved. We are willing to participate in a regional summit on drugs and establish mechanisms which allow us to efficiently fight the drug trade.

Our struggle against drug trafficking will continue, and we call on the national community to join efforts to resolve the drug addiction problem in the country. This is not only a problem of my government. It is a problem that needs to be dealt with by all forces of the country. We are willing to listen to suggestions and work with all Guatemalans wishing to help.

In the social welfare field, we have improved installations at all nurseries in Guatemala City. We have improved the homes of surrogate mothers. We have built the diagnostic center for juvenile delinquents. We have also built the assistance center for boys, the center for the treatment and assistance of minors as well as the center for assistance and treatment of children. All of these centers were built during the past year. Thousands of youths currently are receiving the benefits.

As part of these social welfare programs, we have a program initiated by my wife, which goes deep into my heart. I am talking about the program of community homes. It started out with 20 homes a year ago. Now, with great pleasure, I come before you deputies to tell you that we have 830 homes taking care of 226 communities with a total of 1,735 children. These children receive the following from the state: their breakfast, a mid-morning snack, lunch, and a mid-afternoon snack. Their parents also receive assistance. Each mother receives 15 quetzals for each child she takes care of from the state and also gets 20 quetzals for each child she takes care of from the community. I want to say that the dimensions of the program can be so huge that it could resolve many of the problems that have hurt the country in the past.

We do not invest in infrastructure; we invest in the nutrition and welfare of children. We hope that by the time we conclude this period, we will have more than 50,000 children receiving proper treatment at the community homes. It is work that is being conducted with the mothers in the community in tight cooperation with the state.

We have realized that children who are admitted to the homes, those who perform as less-than-average children, break the barriers of their below average status and become completely normal children after two months of proper treatment.

Even though it may be inappropriate, I want to tell my wife that I appreciate her work and I encourage her to continue working with this program, as well as with all other programs, which together with Mrs. Espina, have been improved. [applause]

I know how hard it has been for my wife to withstand the insults, lies, and slander that many have hurled at her. I want to say that my hands are clean and that we will continue to guide the state with the same honesty that we have guided the state until now. You should know that our hearts are with all Guatemalans, and we will continue to work this way.

I also want to make a very special mention of the ladies who are part of over 71 foundations, who have helped rebuild daycare centers and clinics, and who have worked without any remuneration. Nowadays, these aides to the first lady not only work in the capital but throughout the countryside.

In addition, during 1992 we developed, through Conapaz [expansion unknown], more than 500 programs in communities that have been affected by violence; 320 communities in eight departments have benefited; 558,000 people have received state benefits with a total investment of over 35 million [currency not specified]. Conapaz also created a support system for Cear [Special Commission for Assistance to Repatriated People], supplying land for the repatriation of refugees, a basic house, guaranteed food, and loans to supply basic infrastructure to the refugees.

Today, Messrs. Deputies, I want to make a special mention to you because you are representatives of the nation. In this country, we have a historic problem with land and legal land tenure. During 1991, my government handed out 1,834 deeds through the INTA [National Institute of Agrarian Reform] system. In 1992, with much effort we managed to hand over 9,202 deeds, which makes a total of 11,030 titles. This is more than what had been handed out over the past 30 years.

In 1992, we handed over farms that totalled 24,309 hectares—the biggest property turnover in the country's history—3,870 hectares as part of the regular INTA program, 14,814 hectares for the refugee program, and 5,625 hectares that were delivered to the peasants who paid rent for this land for 25 years. One million hectares of land was transferred from government control to proprietors for them to decide on its use. This was accomplished with your assistance, Messrs. Deputies, who approved the INTA law that allowed my government to do this.

As former Congress President Edmond Mullet said: The work we have done together has yielded results. No matter how belittling the appellatives may be, I encourage you to keep up the good work because the results are what definitely count. The people understand that they can obtain better living conditions, not just lawsuits or fights, from politicians.

As leader of the ruling party and president of the Republic, it would not be correct if I failed to state my appreciation for two political groups—the Guatemalan Christian Democracy and the Union of the National Center. They set aside their partisan interests which may have separated us to reach agreements and enable us to achieve a fruitful legislative period which—I want to tell you, Messrs. Representatives of those political parties and Messrs. Deputies—does not necessarily benefit my administration. However, it does benefit the Guatemalan people and we owe it to them so we must continue to work and coexist.

Messrs. Representatives of the Guatemalan people, within this same spirit I now wish to present a proposal—a proposal that will change the course of our country's destiny. We must exert ourselves because there are no titles for 4 million hectares of land in Guatemala. Their legitimate owners cannot register them in their names; they cannot freely bequeath them; they cannot mortgage them and make them produce. Some of these lands have old communal titles granted by a Spanish king hundreds of years ago to persons who are dead. Another part of these lands includes villages, rural communities, and districts.

In fact, I want to tell you that the study we made shows certain municipal capitals—even department capitals—lack the proper title and are simply a part of a communal title. This reality, dear Representatives of the Guatemalan people, affects millions of Guatemalans, many of whom are part of the country's most needy. We could

add the 1,000 land owners in the Peten area who have already taken possession of their land and 40,000 who have titles for their farms.

Messrs. Deputies, the Executive Branch has appointed a specific commission to solve this land problem, but the problem will not be solved if the different political parties represented here are not willing to solve the problem. We must agree to get down to work and issue, as soon as possible, a law which allows us to work toward this goal. As president of the Executive Branch, I pledge to send to you, in the next 90 days, a draft bill which—respecting private property already guaranteed by the law—allows us to give legal guarantees to Guatemalans who own land under the previously mentioned conditions.

All these procedures shall be carried out through administrative, not judicial, procedures—simple and easy procedures adapted to each region's reality—and at the lowest possible cost so that this law may really fulfill the social function of providing legal security for land to any Guatemalan who wants it.

Messrs. Deputies, I want to tell you one thing: There will never be a bigger revolution in this country than providing security to those who have land.

With regard to the economy, 1992 was the second year that we searched for an answer to the country's economic problems. It was the second year we had a budget without a fiscal deficit and with salary increases for public employees that, over these two years, reached 100 percent of their earnings. The 14th-month bonus was created, inflation reached 13 percent, which is very acceptable in Latin America, and the tax modernization began.

The GNP growth reached the highest rate in the last 12 years: 4.6 percent. The exchange rate remained stable and very realistic as there was no significant difference between the exchange rate in the banking system and the exchange rate outside the banking system. The dollar reserves closed this year with levels similar to those of last year, with over $500 million, in spite of the fact that the deficit in our trade balance increased significantly.

The foreign debt was reduced by $118 million and the debts we had inherited from previous governments were canceled.

I wish to tell you, with great satisfaction, that at the end of last year the windows of the international banks were left open for Guatemala and that this year we will begin a new stage in social investment.

We want to tell you that we will have 600 million quetzals, 100 million quetzals for each one of the following funds: National Fund for Peace, to bring development to those brothers who have been affected by violence; National Fund for Land, for the creation of new communities and agrarian parcels that may allow Guatemalans who may wish so to have access to land; one hundred million quetzals for Fonguavi [Guatemalan Housing Fund]. Inasmuch as it is true that we have closed the Banvi [National Housing Bank] because it was an obsolete structure which did not fulfill the needs for housing in the country, could not formalize a policy, concentrated its work on middle and upper classes, and concentrated its work in the capital city, Fonguavi has other guidelines. It will help with housing for the lower class and housing repair and fulfill needs where it is needed most without the executor being the government; rather the executor will be anyone in that capacity.

We will also provide 100 million quetzals for loans to the people because it is one of the programs we want to promote to tend to the people's basic needs.

Furthermore, we will also have 100 million quetzals for the Social Investment Fund, a project that was started during former President Cerezo's government, and I hope we will be able to approve its basic law very soon and have it in operation in the near future.

We believe that the cleansing of the state through the elimination of the subsidies has been a healthy policy for all the institutions.

The Inde has been a subsidized agency and we are making arrangements so its assets are used to pay what the Guatemalan people have given it in subsidies for its foreign debt. There is no reason why the people should pay for past mismanagement. We will take those assets and put them up for sale. The money will be used to increase social investments. We will implement programs that will be politically compatible with this honorable Congress, and we will implement the financial stabilization programs we need to activate the country's production.

We feel satisfied that the Central American integration system will begin to operate in just 15 days. This was another proposal submitted by my administration. We are also extremely pleased because the Central American free trade zone again will be implemented this year, and we are quite pleased to know an agreement has been signed with two friendly countries in the Central American region to take firm steps toward the creation of a Central American community or federation.

We have signed bilateral agreements with Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela, and the United States, and we are negotiating other agreements along these lines. We have prepared for the opening of large international commercial and economic blocs and this gives our country a very different outlook. Regarding domestic issues, we want to say we have supported decentralization by allotting and punctually paying more than 484 million [currency not specified] to the municipalities. We hope to reach a consensus this year with the people's representatives at Congress on the new territorial tax law, which strives to strengthen municipal autonomy. We are willing to work with enthusiasm and dedication to do it as soon as possible.

Deputies, I am satisfied because I am able to give you this economic report and because almost everything has

been done with public funds, meaning the taxpayers' money. This has been possible because we have handled the state budget with honesty, equity, and justice. We have now overcome the difficult phase of our recovery and stabilization. We have cleared the land and sowed new seeds, but above all, Guatemalans have jointly laid the groundwork for a modern Guatemala. We will continue to work together in 1993 because our country needs it. We will continue to sponsor social investment programs and we hope we will be able to present better results to the people's representatives next year.

I now want to issue an appeal to the Guatemalan people: We must make this year the year of reconciliation and peace. There is nothing closer to our heart and the hearts of all Guatemalan people than the ability to achieve reconciliation among Guatemalans so we may live in peace. All Guatemalans are duty bound to share with optimism the hope for a better future.

I want to tell the productive sector of this country, members of cooperatives, private sectors, workers, and peasants, that our real challenge is to produce more, to move away from selfishness, and to understand that our country needs solidarity with those who have not had the opportunities we have. I want to tell them that we are committed to modernizing production to compete in a better and more active manner. To do this, you have the state's support.

I want to tell public employees and teachers, public officials, all those who this year have carried out a task in the different state organizations, the Supreme Court of Justice, Congress, and the different prosecutors offices, that I am satisfied and proud of having worked with you, regardless of our differences. The important thing is that we have made the country work its way through another year.

To the public employees, I want to express my gratitude for their work in a very special way. We will continue to do everything possible to improve conditions, treatment, and salaries. I do urge you, however, to make further efforts to serve the people with dedication and, above all, with honesty.

Friends of the media, you are the communicators who link Guatemalans with one another and sow optimism and hope among our people. Foster faith in a better Guatemala, promote all those positive values which I am sure will help us live in peace.

To this country's politicians, and particularly you deputies, I extend an invitation to continue exercising democracy through the representation the people have bestowed on us.

Let us make ever bigger efforts to solve the people's problems, and let us reach the necessary agreements for our country's development. Let's overcome our differences, really respect each other, and work together.

I want to reaffirm to the indigenous peoples my government's profound respect for your cultures and traditions and tell you that this must be an objective that we must promote through the government. The cultural, economic, and social development of ethnic groups must be based on fair policies and never on paternalistic policies.

The unity of all Guatemalans, without distinction among races and beliefs, must never be affected by racism or discrimination. Let us strive for that unity that has brought us to this point and which must give its everything at this time of peace we are facing.

To the refugees who live abroad, I reiterate, in front of the national and international community, that the doors to our country are open, that Guatemalan hearts are open, and that all the efforts we can make, as we have been doing, will be undertaken so that you may return to Guatemala with the dignity you deserve.

I urge our Army to continue struggling until we see our country totally pacified. I tell the mothers, wives, and children of the specialized officers and Army troops that I will continue to struggle so that we can see their mission completed very soon.

To the orphans and widows left by this, currently incomprehensible, struggle, I sincerely say that the blood spilled by your loved ones in defending liberty and justice will bear fruit in the new dawn of our country.

I beg to God that rifles and machine guns are soon exchanged for hoes and pens to promote development and defend our ideals and hopes.

To conclude, I once again tell our Guatemalan brothers in the guerrilla groups: Our arms are open. Your only option at this historical moment is a legal situation. You will achieve nothing by blowing up bridges or electric towers, endorsing terrorism, or bringing sorrow to Guatemalan homes. I sincerely tell you: You must understand the Guatemalan people believe less and less in your intentions about achieving peace.

Friends in the international community, the Guatemalan people and my administration want peace, and we have given clear proof of this by accepting the proposals presented by the conciliator, Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, on human rights issues, proposing the rest of the topics be discussed in an overall way, proposing permanent sessions until a definite peace agreement is achieved, and proposing the United Nations prepare a document on verification, dismantling of subversive fronts, and the end of the conflict.

With great flexibility and a conciliatory attitude we allowed a progressive rapprochement about the agreements. Hear me well: We believe the negotiations are the most appropriate, humane way to settle our differences, yet discussions on the human rights issue have been going on for one and a half years. Basic differences were settled more than one and a half years ago, and the government accepted the conciliator's proposal more than six months ago. Throughout this time the guerrilla

groups have only sought to discuss procedures which openly contradict the Mexico City and Queretaro accords.

I must confess I failed to understand the attitude of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] for a long time, but I have now received a private document that was seized at a guerrilla camp in Playa Grande—a document in which the URNG clearly states its idea that the negotiations are a new battlefield, a part of the revolutionary struggle. The text says: Another thing which should be quite clear in our fellow fighters' minds is that the URNG General Command thinks about the revolution and the people's needs in each discussion and proposal for the agreements discussed during the negotiation process—never about a surrender or conciliation. Messrs. of the URNG, we are going in totally different directions because we are certainly thinking about the end of the conflict and about a conciliation and reconciliation. The URNG published a paid ad entitled: Political Will Is Proved With Actions, on 10 January 1993, barely two days ago. It challenges us to accept the immediate signing of an agreement on human rights and an immediate verification of the same.

We notified the URNG [Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity] gentlemen that the human rights verification process is a reality in our country. We have a human rights prosecutor general. In addition, we also have an expert adviser, Dr. Christian Tomuschat, who honors us with his presence today. As of 11 May 1992, we accepted the conciliator's version and we are ready to sign. Today, before the national and international community, we solemnly pledge and hereby state that we are willing to accept an immediate verification of all agreements on human rights issues, provided that you can demonstrate with facts, that your intentions are aimed at finding peace and not continuing the war, as written in the document I previously mentioned which I will later distribute to the media as well as to the honorable diplomatic corps.

Show us your true intentions by committing yourselves before the national and international community to negotiate without interruption the globalization documents that both sides already presented. Let us both commit ourselves before our people to sign a firm and lasting peace agreement in a 90-day period. [applause] Those are the facts that speak for themselves, and not the hollow words that tend to kill our people's desire for peace.

In the name of the government of the Republic, and true to the desire of all Guatemalans, we pledge to negotiate and do our utmost to enter a dialogue and sign a definite peace document in 30 days. If the URNG decided to back its words with actions, we would accept an immediate verification, completely sure that this would favor peace and not be just another instrument to prolong the armed struggle. We would also be willing, and for the first time in 30 years we say it before the national and international community, to accept that in the remote case that we do not reach an agreement in the 90-day period, then a definite cease-fire will be declared.

To this end, the government would determine specific territorial areas that can be supervised by the United Nations for the URNG to concentrate its armed units according to procedures we would request the UN Secretary General to determine. [applause]

We want to clarify before these honorable congressional representatives gathered here today that this new position, which is thoroughly humanitarian, was guided by the determination accorded by the legality of our struggle and inspired by the yearning of our people to be rid of this useless conflict. If you want facts and not words, here is your opportunity. The Guatemalan people and the international community will now judge them. Today, we have indicated once more our willingness for peace with facts. I only ask God to help us all to continue the course and to bless us. Thank you very much. [applause]

Private Sector Supports President's Peace Proposal

PA1901034993 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 16 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Ricardo Rodriguez, assistant manager of the Guatemalan Chamber of Commerce, stated on 16 January that the proposal by President Jorge Serrano to sign a peace agreement in 90 days is the most convenient proposal for progress in Guatemala.

He added that the Guatemalan organized private sector is aware that as long as the armed conflict lasts, possibilities for development will continue to be scarce. That is why the president's proposal is important.

Serrano's proposal on the signing of a peace agreement in 90 days, announced at the Congress, is in fact a challenge to the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), whose commanders will have to respond positively.

Sadio Garavini di Turno, Venezuela's ambassador to Guatemala, described President Serrano's proposal to the guerrillas as courageous as well as befitting, and pointed out that it deserves a positive reply from the URNG guerrillas.

According to Guillermo Cayax, Guatemalan Workers Trade Union representative, President Serrano's proposal is a very risky one, since it should take the Guatemalan people into account.

Commenting on President Serrano's cease-fire proposal, National Commission of Guatemalan Widows activist Rosalina Tuyuc indicated that the problems Guatemala currently faces not only include the armed conflict but also the distress caused by bombings, kidnappings, and murders.

Ms. Tuyuc added that what the president suggested in his address was nothing new. She emphasized that the

armed conflict is one of the country's problems but not the main one, since numerous issues are affecting all Guatemalans.

In commenting on President Serrano's call to the insurgents, Captain Julio Alberto Yon Rivera, Army Information and Press Department spokesman, stated that the Army complies with the law and will obey the president's instructions as he is the Armed Forces' commander in chief.

He added that President Serrano's statements were made before the international community, and that the possibility of attaining peace will depend on the guerrillas' answer.

According to Capt. Yon Rivera, "they must express their political will in order for public opinion to arrive at its own conclusions with respect to the parties involved in the peace dialogue."

Catholic Church spokesman Eswin Ochaeta pointed out that President Serrano's proposal to the guerrillas is positive and encourages the possibility of ending the armed struggle.

* Expenditures on Public Works To Increase

93CA0035B Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 2 Nov 92 p 7

[Article by Arnoldo Cruz]

[Text] Expenditure of 2.189 billion quetzales is the amount being considered in next year's budget for capital investment, and of that, 1.6947 billion would be invested directly. The objective is to resolve the problem of access to basic social services.

As an illustration to the reader, it is noted that the budget is comprised of three main areas: operating expenditures, capital investment, and public debt.

In response to the pressures of an internal, and undoubtedly external nature, the Government proposes to carry out activities favoring development through what is referred to as "prioritization of investment expenses," which it considers "urgent because of the serious shortages Guatemala is facing caused by deficiencies in basic social services such as education, health, housing, potable water, waste disposal, drainage, etc."

In addition, it will try to resolve other problems such as those involving communications, and stimulate export activities. One can deduce the following: "an appropriate network of highways, roads, airports, and ports favors not only traditional and nontraditional exporters, but also small producers involved in domestic consumption."

It also reflects awareness that "the benefits of public works constitute mechanisms for social compensation," whenever "they contribute to resolving shortfalls and deficiencies of access to social services, as an alternate method of providing better distribution of revenues derived from local progress, the training of human capital, and greater employment generation."

The capital investment budget for 1993 reflects "the Government's concern for improving the mix of public expenditures in favor of investment."

Budgeted expenditures for this category will increase to 2.1891 billion quetzales, "and thus its share of total spending and its share as a proportion of GDP [Gross Domestic Product] will rise to 31 and 3.6 percent, respectively." In the Government's view, "the latter implies a more than doubling of the rate of public investment in 1993 over 1991."

Of the 2.1891 billion quetzales, 1.6941 billion will be aimed at "direct investment" and 494.4 million at capital transfers.

In its budget analysis, CIEN [National Economic Research Center] observes that "top priority is given in the investment plan to the Communications Ministry, with a 42 percent share of the total program 924.7 million)."

And it notes that "the institution showing the greatest change from what was approved in 1992 is the Presidency of the Republic, with growth in budgeted capital investment of 353 percent, increasing to 159.4 million quetzales, of which 72 million are aimed at the Social Investment Fund (FIS), and another 72 million to the National Peace Funds (FONAPAZ).

A possible delay in implementing the capital investment program cannot be justified by arguing the annoying documentary procedures involved in licensing and contracting, since the new State Contracting Law contains provisions to make these procedures more flexible.

The Finance Ministry has said that "the challenge for 1993 is to improve implementation."

Honduras

Editorial Views Allied Air Strike Against Iraq

PA1501220593 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 15 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "New Focus of Military Tension in the Gulf"]

[Excerpts] The military attack launched by the United States and its allies in southern Iraq, in reaction to the violations of the UN resolutions, was carried out successfully on 13 January, according to White House spokesmen. [passage omitted]

In the end, every military conflict anywhere in the world causes concern, given the extraordinary modern interdependence among countries. Every conflict has an impact, particularly in areas of strategic importance, such as the volatile, oil-rich Middle East region.

As always, the wars have as a backdrop disputes over markets and natural resources. The case of Iraq is no exception, despite making its claims known.

Even though it is taking place in a distant land, this conflict affects Latin American countries because the use of force is being employed to settle conflicts among states, although this use of force is supported by UN resolutions.

From the human standpoint, every armed conflict, such as the painful dissolution of Yugoslavia, moves us and shows that there is still an inclination for violence in mankind.

The reasons to use force, regardless of how valid they may be, are always subject to condemnation, because it is not the civilized way to settle differences and discrepancies.

However, some of us just have the right to resort to international law and its practices, while others have force and power to impose their beliefs and ways of thinking on weak countries. This is, regrettably, the reality in a world that calls itself advanced, educated, and learned.

Callejas Defends Armed Forces Budget

PA1901004693 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa—President Rafael Leonardo Callejas said on 16 January that the Honduran Armed Forces budget had been reduced by almost 100 percent in relation to the gross domestic product [GDP], and "seconded" the warning given to newsmen by General Luis Alonso Discua, Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief.

He said some newsmen active in domestic issues have made inaccurate remarks regarding the Armed Forces budget. This is a complex matter because it undermines the institution's credibilty.

He added the criticism seeks to weaken the military institution, "and here I agree with Gen. Discua that some sectors, not all, are not aware of the big efforts the Honduran Armed Forces have made on economic issues."

He noted the Armed Forces budget was 2.86 percent in relation to the GDP in 1989; it dropped to 1.32 percent in 1992. "There has been an almost 100 percent reduction in real terms, in relation to the GDP."

President Callejas made those remarks to newsmen at the conclusion of the change of command ceremony of the Public Security Forces and the celebration of the 111th anniversary of the Honduran Police.

Regarding a solution to the banana problem, the president said he felt happy because in the end it brought benefits to female packers, and also the guarantee of current and future production due to the circumstances the EC is creating. [sentence as published]

He said he told the company, workers, and owners of the transnational company about the need to define a medium- and long- term solution to the decision the EC may adopt.

Commenting on the new airport, he said that while the government will not act as guarantor or provide funding, it will draft the concession contract with the company that builds the private airport in such a way that it can recover its investment.

As to the question of whether the police should be civilian and not military, Callejas said that the police must be upgraded within the framework of the Armed Forces. He added that some sectors recall what the civilian guards were like, and "we must not err by making a hasty decision." This transition should be sought by 2000, he said, stressing that the views of these political sectors still prevail in some areas.

Human Rights Group Replies to Gen Discua

PA1601193793 Tegucigalpa EL HERALDO in Spanish 13 Jan 93 p 48

[Communique issued by the Human Rights Defense Committee, Codeh, on 12 January in Tegucigalpa—published as a paid advertisement]

[Text] Message to the Honduran people and all good willed officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers of the Armed Forces.

On 31 December the Armed Forces reported a year end message by General Luis Alonso Discua. Although it pointed out that it was a time for "happiness to prevail over hatred and rancor," the message described the "military institution as a victim of a tenacious campaign to attack officers by people who issue preconceived assessments guided by barren sectarianism and without a profound knowledge of our activities." Not in keeping with his "peace and love" message, Gen. Discua assured—in a menacing tone—this campaign is promoted by groups "hiding behind the shadows of intrigue and evil," who are involved in "wicked plots." This opinion, which is characteristic of "psychological warfare," cannot go unnoticed by the Human Rights Defense Committee [Codeh] and all institutions and people who defend the right to life and to differ.

Without feeling this message referred to it directly, Codeh, an organization with experience in exercising freedom of speech and information, cannot agree with Gen. Discua's opinion because it replaces a Christian outlook with a militaristic one, which is not in keeping with the constitutional concept of the Armed Forces. Following the Christian concept of giving each person what he deserves, and with due respect, Codeh reproduces the main allegations presented by Gen. Discua on behalf of the Armed Forces, and replies to them:

Allegation 1: "Groups are leveling charges against us, without backing them up with convincing evidence, to

justify their existence. They are financed by kindred groups and people who hide behind the shadows of intrigue and evil. This is why we are surprised by the gratuitous attacks by many groups that, using financial resources of unknown origin, are constant critics and denouncers of the Armed Forces."

Reply: We understand Gen. Discua's concern because the number of groups or people challenging through legal means any person or institution responsible for violating human rights is increasing every day.

Codeh issues after the fact opinions, never preconceived opinions, because we do not plan, much less execute, these kinds of acts. Evidence of this are the multiple cases that have been filed at the Police Professional Responsibility Office, justice tribunals (common and even war tribunals), and other competent organizations. It is regrettable that the impunity of soldiers said to be responsible for—not guilty of—human rights violations is impeding the administration of justice.

To leave no doubt, Codeh assures that it has only legitimate financing to help victims of human rights violations and to prevent them. They are so legitimate that if Gen. Discua agrees, we could subject to an exhaustive investigation the financing of Codeh and the Armed Forces from 1980 to the present. Moreover, because we have nothing to hide, we would be willing to file a sworn declaration to clarify the origin of the assets of the defenders of human rights and of the members of the current military high command.

Allegation 2: "There is a premeditated inclination to overlook the fact that men in uniform who commit crimes are placed at the disposal of justice tribunals to be punished."

Reply: It seems his advisers have made Gen. Discua believe soldiers are only accountable for their actions while wearing their uniforms. In other words, violators of the law such as Major Victor Manuel Bueso, off-duty members of the 3-16 [nickname given to battalion widely believed to be responsible for assassinations], and agents of the Department of National Investigation [DNI], who are usually in civilian clothes, are "innocent" of abusing power. Even if the color of a shirt or pants could shed new light on criminal law, it would be advisable to ask Gen. Discua what justice tribunals would try men in uniform found responsible for the following actions:

a) Lieutenant Colonel Alexis Perdomo Orellana, who headed the troops that fired on the defenseless people of El Mochito, and Colonel Julio Armando Pavon, commander of the 105th Brigade, to which these soldiers belong.

b) The soldiers of the 10th Battalion who, following orders by Sublieutenant Angel Belisario Hernandez, captured civilian Juan Humberto Sanchez illegally on 9 July 1992 and filed false accusations against him; and the 15 members of the Territorial Forces, who raided his residence illegally two days later, took him away, and executed him with a shot to the forehead.

c) What tribunal is trying the officers who conspired, against the law, in favor of the soldiers linked to the Riccy Mabel Martinez case? What tribunal is trying the person who stole two pages from the visitors registry that showed that Martinez visited that military installation? The list, Gen. Discua, could get longer, and you know it.

Allegation 3: "The new institutional policies are the best evidence that we have a new outlook on our assigned tasks, but those small groups refuse to acknowledge such changes to harm an institution the really belongs to the Honduran people, an institution that (is) an obstacle to the evil plots hidden behind calls for justice, respect for human rights, and full sovereignty of the law."

Reply: We have never had any problems in recognizing the Armed Forces' support for state efforts to protect the ecosystem, reforestation, to combat forest fires, and other civic activities, but abuses still occur because many subordinates of Gen. Discua are aware of but do not comply with the institution's new policies.

Codeh is a Honduran popular institution that feels that its criticism and legal actions in one way or another contribute to pointing out the real failures of militarism. With that honest attitude, which involves no privileges, Codeh favors the Armed Forces more than many alleged friends and advisers who praise them unconditionally or give them bad advice only to obtain a benefit. Gen. Discua, you know well that neither Codeh nor its members appear on any list of civilians who receive "favors" through the military budget. Based on our moral standing, we reaffirm that Codeh's right to report violations and their impunity, by pointing out the violators, and its right to defend and promote human rights are inalienable, unconditional, and independent of any interest.

Allegation 4: "Despite this defamatory and ignominious campaign, certain actions best reflect the seriousness and commitment assumed by the Armed Forces."

Reply: Our institution can attest to the excellent behavior of certain military authorities under various circumstances, but we cannot say the same of the Armed Forces.

All publications, radio and television programs, posters, and signs used, and the unfounded charges leveled against us by the military propaganda apparatus, show where the defamation and ignominy actually come from.

To be more specific, we are referring to an unethical campaign the Armed Forces has promoted, in an institutional or covert form, against Codeh and its president, Ramon Custodio, since 1987. By contrast, the people may judge our arguments against impunity and human rights abuses because they are made openly, responsibly, and are backed by evidence.

Allegation 5: "But the inclination is to blame us for every evil that has ever existed."

Reply: Gen. Discua, if we are wrong, you could try to demonstrate it, but the evidence shows irrefutably that members of the Public Security Force and the DNI are responsible for 70 percent of all human rights violations in Honduras.

Conclusion: It is possible that dialogue could improve communications between the two parties in conflict, but that would require honesty, sincerity, and above all, that the two parties be consistent.

Today, as yesterday, we fight impunity.

[Signed] Human Rights Defense Committee
[Issued] Tegucigalpa, 12 January 1993

Nicaragua

Communique on Deputy Minister's Resignation

PA1801225993 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1830 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Communique issued by the Presidency Public Relations Directorate; place and date not given]

[Text] The Presidency Public Relations Directorate, in view of recent public statements made by former Nicaraguan Government official Alejandro Bolanos Davis, informs citizens of the following:

1. On 9 January 1992, Alejandro Bolanos was appointed deputy presidency minister with the specific duty of coordinating the design and implementation of the government's social policy for the 1992 to 1996 and directing the social cabinet's meetings.

2. In view of the poor results of the work conducted by Bolanos, his lack of leadership in conducting this important task, and the breakdown of relations between Bolanos and important international organizations vital for social development, the Presidency decided in September 1992 to create the Social Action Ministry—effective January 1993—to overcome those inefficiencies.

3. Upon learning of that presidential decision, Bolanos presented draft documents on the structure, organization, and objectives of the new ministry, and expressed his desire to be appointed social action minister. He never presented any of the objections that he has expressed to the media in the past few days.

4. When the president decided to offer the Social Action Ministry to William Baez Sacasa, in view of his broad experience in this field, the presidency minister informed Bolanos on 6 January that the president decided he would not continue as deputy minister of the Social Affairs Ministry.

5. On 6 January, the presidency minister informed Bolanos that the president had offered him the new position of deputy social action minister, to which Bolanos replied he would prefer to continue in the government as adviser to the new Social Action Ministry.

6. Twenty-four hours later, Bolanos made a false statement to the media, claiming he resigned his post as deputy presidency minister for reasons he had never mentioned prior to the president's decision to separate him from his post.

7. We consider dishonest and deplorable the criticism by a former government official who has only come forward out of the frustration he feels for not having been appointed to a position for which he is not fit.

Leal Outlines 1993 Foreign Policy Goals

PA1801182593 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Economic and social development are the basis for the Nicaraguan foreign policy in 1993, Foreign Minister Ernesto Leal has said. He added this week there will be a meeting with the members of the diplomatic corps and the authorities of the new Social Action Ministry. The official also gave the names of the main international events Nicaragua will attend in 1993, including three presidential summits during the first quarter.

[Begin Leal recording] Social and economic development is the pillar of our foreign policy in 1993. We incorporated the topic of cooperation for social and economic development into the political cooperation agreements that we have with the Group of Three. In the weeks to come, we will hold a meeting with the diplomatic corps to [words indistinct] plans, which will be one of the pillars of the [words indistinct], and, as a matter of fact, the OAS assembly will be held in Nicaragua. The topic of the assembly is economic and social development [words indistinct] in June.

The fact the assembly is being held here shows support for the new democracy in Nicaragua. The OAS does not hold assemblies in countries where there is no democracy. We are promoting rapprochement with Caribbean countries, mainly with the Caribbean Common Market, and will begin a phase of rapprochement and visits to Southeast Asian countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore—and Persian Gulf countries. We will send private secretaries on missions to these countries.

This year we are also going to host a meeting of new democracies, meaning the countries that are fledgling democracies. The foreign minister level meeting would be held in the second half of this year. It would include all the countries that are known as new democracies. We are going to (?implement) UN resolutions, signed late last year with which you are familiar, [words indistinct] in a practical manner.

Most of all, the fundamental task we will begin this year is the defense of natural resources in Rio San Juan and

along the Atlantic coast. As you know, the Rio San Juan resources have been destroyed [passage indistinct]. We have problems of deforestation and pollution. We will hold an interinstitutional meeting in a week or two so the Army, the National Police, the Nicaraguan Natural Resources and Environment Institute, and all the institutions involved in protecting natural resources can play an active role in protecting our natural resources in Rio San Juan.

As for the Caribbean Sea, everybody is aware of the large number of instances of piracy reported over the years. We hope to implement the decision of rationally protecting the natural resources, mainly in the Caribbean and Rio San Juan.

In 1993, we are going to begin relations with other countries. We have just recognized the Czech and Slovak Republics [words indistinct] Malaysia, etc. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Leal also made important announcements on the chief international events that Nicaragua will attend during the first half of 1993.

[Begin Leal recording] There is an effort to hold a banana summit on 15 February in Guayaquil, Ecuador. The banana producing countries must decide if they will meet. From 10 to 11 February, we have the summit of the Group of Three with Central America. We have planned a summit, [word indistinct] was scheduled for 18 or 19 February. I do not know if it will be held [passage indistinct]. [end recording]

Alfredo Cesar Explains 'New UNO Strategy'

PA1701183293 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The deputies of the National Opposition Union, UNO, have decided the strategy they will follow during the National Assembly sessions. They said they will not totally withdraw from the Assembly, but at the same time they will not legitimize actions carried out by an illegal Board of Directors. They will go to the Assembly whenever they have something to say and then will walk out, leaving their seats empty, as an act of protest.

Alfredo Cesar [ousted Assembly president] explained the new UNO strategy:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] There is a very important point that we would like you to clarify. There are many reports, some of them contradictory, about the position to be assumed by the UNO, which showed its unity at the march in Managua, and has stood in the Assembly as one bloc. What is the UNO position regarding the 27 January session? Some people believe UNO deputies should attend the session so they do not lose a political forum. Others believe they should not attend. A third group has stated its position as follows: If they decide not to attend, the wound left when the Constitution was violated will remain open. The empty seats will have a multiplying effect, not only on the national public, which has a very bad memory, but on the international public, which has a very good memory, and on the European countries, where parliaments are strong. What is the strategy: To seek a forum with relative influence to face a media totally controlled by the Sandinist National Liberation Front and the government or to maintain, before the eyes of the world, that open wound in the democratic process?

[Cesar] We will do both. This is an official position adopted by the UNO bloc. UNO deputies feel they cannot leave the seats they obtained legitimately through the people's votes. They feel it is their duty not to abandon their seats. At the same time, however, UNO must protest the illegality of the Board of Directors and the fact that all parliamentary principles have been violated. The UNO deputies have decided not to withdraw from the National Assembly and at the same time not to participate in the sessions normally. Their presence will be sporadic and calculated, whenever necessary, to impugn or protest an action officially, after which they will walk out of the Assembly. The tactic will be to hit and run, which is a very effective tactic. This tactic is much more effective than simply leaving the seats empty and not attending the sessions. That will enable us to [three-second break in reception] legitimately obtained through votes from the Nicaraguan people. We cannot, however, participate regularly in an Assembly that has been militarily violated and where an illegal Board of Directors, which we do not recognize, has been imposed.

In sum, the strategy to be adopted by the UNO will be to enter, participate, hit, and leave the Assembly.

[Reporter] Could this be described as a typical [word indistinct]?

[Cesar] Yes. It is the best tactic, because it will enable us to remain in a forum for which we were elected by the people, and at the same time not to legitimize any action.

[Reporter] [Words indistinct] commissions?

[Cesar] In the same way as in the plenary sessions: Hit and run, enter and leave. That is the way in which the UNO bloc has decided it will accomplish both objectives: not leaving the seats for which we were elected by the people and which we must defend, and at the same time not legitimizing any of the actions taken.

[Reporter] Is this a joint position?

[Cesar] Absolutely. This was a unanimous decision adopted by the UNO bloc. [end recording]

UNO Urges Dialogue With Chamorro

PA1701154593 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 2200 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Letter from the National Opposition Union, UNO, to President Violeta Chamorro in Managua; date not given]

[Text] Most Excellent Mrs. President:

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 12 January 1993. We are pleased that the idea of meeting with members of the National Opposition Union [UNO] National Assembly bloc came up during your meeting with mayors, who are members of the directorate of the Nicaraguan Institute of Municipal Development, after they voiced their genuine concern on the urgent need to find solutions to the country's serious institutional crisis.

This is a constructive idea that the UNO opposition bloc welcomes. We reaffirm the stand of the mayors voiced in a 13 January communique, whose point three read: Given that the most recent National Assembly Board of Directors election was held in the presence of a minority bloc and a small group of so-called centrist deputies, and in the absence of the majority UNO bloc, we decided to disown the directorate elected on 9 January and urge that a new election be held in which the National Assembly by-laws are respected.

The undersigned members of the opposition UNO bloc are fully willing to meet with you to find a solution to the overall crisis that is obstructing the full implementation of the government plan that we offered together to the Nicaraguan Government.

We are at your disposal to discuss ways to solve this national crisis and repair the serious damage done to the country's stability because of the illegal measures contained in Presidential Decree No. 341-92, which has created an ilegitimate and illegal National Assembly Board of Directors and betrayed the will of the citizens, who elected us as representatives and you as president.

As you know, the opposition UNO bloc is currently made up of 43 representatives and an independent, who abstained from participating in the illegal action that occurred on 9 January.

We urge you to take note of our decision to participate in a meeting that would involve exclusively the opposition UNO bloc, government officials of your choice, and you.

We reaffirm the opposition UNO bloc's willingness to meet with you to help repair the serious damage done to national stability. We take this opportunity to voice our highest consideration for the president.

FSLN Communique on New Economic Measures

PA1501202193 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 14 Jan 93 pp 1,4

[Report on communique issued by the Sandinist National Liberation Front, FSLN, National Directorate in Managua on 12 January]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] National Directorate described the new economic measures adopted by the government on 11 January as "insufficient." The FSLN pointed out these measures "are insufficient to modify the recessive orientation, to promote national production, and to include the great majority of society."

In a pronouncement made public on 13 January, the Sandinist National Directorate upheld that some of the measures will result in a greater social cost to all Nicaraguans. In addition, the FSLN criticized the fact that social policies and employment promotion have only been voiced abstractly and in general.

The pronouncement states that "the freezing of wages in the public sector, as well as the less protected sectors, will strongly penalize the purchasing capability of government employees, as well as all wage earners."

The Sandinist leadership made seven [number as published] proposals aimed at amending the direction of the government's economic policy to support production and urging the search for a consensus on economic matters to consolidate social peace and stability. The text of the pronouncement follows:

The FSLN, considering the economic measures announced by the government on 10 January within the framework of what it has called the "Second Phase of the Adjustment Plan," hereby makes its position public, considering the effects said measures will have on all Nicaraguan families:

1. On July 1992, the FSLN presented the government with a global proposal in which it demanded concrete changes in the economic program that, in itself, had become an aggravating element of the economic and social crisis by choosing recession and general unemployment as the road to monetary stability.

It was pointed out to the government that the direction of the country's economy was being reoriented in favor of the privileged minority, excluding the productive and work potential of the lower income sectors that constitute the majority of the population.

2. Since the government never replied to the proposals made by the FSLN, a meeting was demanded which took place in two sessions on 12 and 19 November 1992. As was disclosed at the time, there was no reaction from the government.

3. Therefore, the FSLN would like to make very clear, first of all, that the new measures adopted by the government were not discussed with us before 10 January.

4. What the government announced as its Second Phase of the Economic Adjustment, is in all reality, the same program questioned by the FSLN in 1992, but it now includes some additional measures that do not modify its recessive orientation to national production, and also excludes a large proportion of society.

A Greater Social Cost

5. In effect, the new measures are still insufficient, and some imply a greater social cost to the Nicaraguan family.
a) The new exchange rate does indeed amend the cordoba's high valuation, but it does it belatedly.
b) Adjustments to the cost of basic items was left to improvisation, which resulted in the rise of overpricing, speculation, and hoarding, which could reintroduce an inflationary spiral in our society.
c) The freezing of wages in the public sector and in less protected sectors will only serve to penalize the purchasing capacity of teachers, workers, health workers, soldiers, policemen, and other government workers, as well as all salary earners.
d) The tax burden on the population was not cut, while the cost of social services continued to rise.
e) The increase of the custom tariff on luxury items is a positive measure that should have been implemented earlier. At any rate, what the FSLN has been pointing out primarily is that the customs tariff policies the government has been applying has been harming the national industry.
f) The National Financial System continues charging abusive interest rates that discourage producers, thus affecting the profitability of the country's main productive activities.
g) The policies to promote employment and the social programs have remained as general and abstract ideas.

Demands to the Government

6. In this regard, the FSLN insists on demanding the following points, amor.g others, from the government:
a) The immediate organization and implementation of a comprehensive plan for financial, technical, and legal support in favor of the reactivation of small producers, particularly the hundreds of thousands who have benefited from the privatization process, especially in the rural areas.
b) The drafting of a plan to improve and reactivate the industrial sector, as well as the adoption of mechanisms to protect it temporarily to face foreign competition.
c) The implementation of a plan to support and incorporate into production the demobilized members of the Resistance and the discharged members of the Armed Forces.
d) The orientation of foreign resources toward the recovery and expansion of production and the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure, because they are the most stable sources of employment.
e) The establishment of a credit policy that will encourage small- and medium-sized production.
f) The firm establishment of a social policy that will especially guarantee the Nicaraguan people's right to education and health.

7. The FSLN believes it is urgent that the government acknowledges the seriousness of the country's situation, which demands not only a change in the current economic course but a definitive solution to the property problem and actions to deal with the process of disintegration and violence the country is experiencing, especially in the northern area. If this process worsens, it could thwart the economic plan.

8. The FSLN believes that along with the government and all the political and social forces, it has a basic responsibility to search for consensus on economic issues because it is essential for the consolidation of peace, social stability, and reactivation of production.

[Issued] Managua, 12 January 1993
[Signed] FSLN National Directorate

UDC Issues Communique Condemning Devaluation

PA1501171793 Managua Radio Catolica in Spanish 1100 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Report on communique issued by the Christian Democratic Union, UDC, in Managua on 11 January]

[Text] According to the Christian Democratic Union [UDC], the devaluation is an appropriation tax. The UDC is calling for the resignation of President Violeta Chamorro and Government Minister Antonio Lacayo as the economic plan implemented in March 1991 has failed. Deputy Asucena Ferrey read the document issued by the UDC as result of the cordoba devaluation.

[Begin recording] [Ferrey] Good morning to the Nicaraguan people. I will hereby proceed to read the following pronouncement:

The UDC, in light of the unpopular economic measures adopted by the Chamorro-Lacayo government in collusion with their Sandinist National Liberation Front partners, wishes to convey the following statements to the Nicaraguan people:

1. The 20 percent devaluation is an appropriation tax against the poorest sectors of the country because now cordobas are worth less and have less purchasing power to buy essential items.

2. The tax increase will only raise the cost of many items proportionally higher than the devaluation.

3. Increases in gasoline prices, electrical energy, and other utility services will only result in making the cost of Nicaraguan enterprises more expensive, which will only serve to diminish the so-called competitiveness that is being sought.

4. The freezing of wages decreed by the government will only result in the burden of the measures falling on the poorest sectors. In numerous Nicaraguan homes there are unemployed adults, hungry children, and families barely able to make ends meet with the wages of one worker. Wages will now be even more scarce. This is an equal blow to employed and unemployed Nicaraguans.

5. The government has no plans to create new jobs, and is only offering a demagogical employment program that is merely temporary and unworthy, instead of promoting a real program offering support to the private sector aimed at creating thousands of productive and permanent jobs. What the government is offering the unemployed is confetti in hell.

6. The unworthy employment program has been prepared with the intention to weaken the mayors duly elected by the people in a new strategy to give their legitimate duties to the usurpers, thereby reestablishing Sandinist control to the neighborhoods and communities of the various municipalities. This style is akin to the one displayed by Antonio Tony Ibarra from his offices at the Presidency Ministry.

7. The alleged credit increase to producers is completely misleading because more cordobas will be distributed. However, these will be devalued cordobas.

8. The only big winners in this gruesome devaluation game are the Sandinist members of the National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen who received enormous financial assistance and [words indistinct] and are now receiving a 20 percent gift, just as during the Sandinist regime.

9. We must remind the people and the government that the day a brutal 400 percent devaluation was dropped on the people's shoulder, Antonio Lacayo said the government would resign if the economic measures failed. Well, the economic measures failed. There has been no economic reactivation, and external aid has been lost. The Sandinist giveaway has continued, and now the specter of devaluations returns to haunt Nicaraguan homes. Lacayo has failed. He must honor his word. The Chamorro-Lacayo government must resign and return the government to those who were elected to govern Nicaragua and wrest the country from the yoke of oppression and poverty.

[Issued] Managua, 11 January 1993
[Signed] UDC [end recording]

* Police Chief Caldera on Training, Structure

93CA0043A Managua EL SEMANARIO in Spanish No 112, 19-26 Nov 92 pp 15-17

[Interview with Police Chief Fernando Caldera by Orlando Castillo and Erick Aguirre; place and date not given; first four paragraphs are EL SEMANARIO introduction]

[Text] Born into a genuinely anti-Somoza family, whose tribulations touched him from a very young age as his father kept being sent into exile because of his political activities, Fernando Caldera seems to see his post as having a purely patriotic, national, temporary purpose. This does not, however, prevent him from taking pride in his "progressive, revolutionary anti-Somoza" origins and in his longtime affiliation with Sandinism. "My role in this post is temporary. I have to prepare myself to go elsewhere, to leave things ready for whoever comes next to take up this responsibility," he told us at the close of the interview, when our relaxed conversation could be understood as containing some "off-the-record" remarks.

As we entered the room in which he apparently holds his most important conferences, we noticed the photograph of a former comrade of his, a Sandinist woman who died several years ago of a painful disease (Carmen Moreno), and a pencil drawing of his younger brother Fidel, who was killed during the uprising against the Somoza dictatorship. Chief Caldera is a relatively young man who, while almost still a teenager, joined anti-Somoza political activity "professionally" and has had direct ties to the FSLN [Sandinist National Liberation Front] since 1970.

When we asked him about "his career as a Sandinist military officer," he hastened to clarify that in point of fact the Interior Ministry was not originally thought of as a military institution and that only men in the Armed Forces should really be called military men. He then noted that he was an Interior Ministry delegate in the fourth region in 1980, a delegate in the fifth region in 1982, and director of internal order once again in the fourth region for eight and one-half years (until 1991).

He was recently named national chief of police after a great deal of speculation about the retirement of the previous chief, Rene Vivas, and another group of superior police officers. His appointment caused surprise, and an attempt was immediately made to "pin" the "rap" of human-rights violations on him, ones that he supposedly committed during his work in the fifth region. Since then he has remained silent. Now that the winds have died down, and things are calmer and more peaceful, he has agreed to talk at length with EL SEMANARIO.

[EL SEMANARIO] What is your opinion of the National Police that Commander Rene Vivas has handed over to you and of its overall structure after Vivas' term of office?

[Caldera] The first thing that I think should be pointed out is that the National Police is a professional organization; I would dare say that it is one of the best, if not the best, in Central America. In spite of the enormous difficulties that the police face because of conditions in Nicaragua, they solve a high percentage of crimes. I do not think that our crime prevention is very good, but this is mainly because of a manpower problem. Crime prevention calls for having men in the street, patrols, surveillance, and this is tied to the budget. Our crime prevention is not that good. I do not think, however, that this is the reason for the rise in crime. The increase in crime has to do with the economic and social crisis. But, of course, if we did a better job preventing crime, logically it would help. I think that my comrades are doing an admirable job in spite of the impact of the transition, the change of government. The change in the system of police forces has been a major one. Yet the National Police has preserved a series of important values that it had in the past, and that are important to

maintain now: honesty, a work ethic, preparedness, self-sacrifice, and patriotism. I think that in spite of the impact of the transition these values have been preserved within the police. This does not mean, and we must admit it, that the level of preparedness has not been lowered a bit. But this has not spread throughout the police. This is more or less the shape that I have found the police to be in. I think that Rene personally did everything he could, as he was called upon to head the police during a very difficult period—the transition period. Rene did an extraordinary job upholding the quality and values of the police under very complex circumstances.

[EL SEMANARIO] Your appointment was challenged by a human rights organization because of alleged reports of abuses during the time that you served as an official of the former Interior Ministry in Juigalpa. What do you have to say about this?

[Caldera] I have read a little about this in the press, but no human rights organization has said anything to me personally. I have read what has appeared in the papers, a series of false, trumped up charges, events that took place during the war, and events with which I had nothing to do. They have manipulated certain events that objectively took place under historical conditions, when I was doing my job and fulfilling my responsibility, and are now trying to blame me personally for them.

[EL SEMANARIO] Mr. Ronald Aviles was appointed, along with you, as deputy minister of government. What is the work relationship between the director general of the police and this deputy minister of government?

[Caldera] Given that the tasks of the police are quite complex and have an appreciable impact on the entire society, the role of the deputy minister is to help the minister of government in dealing with the police. I think that it is important to underscore that the minister, among ministry authorities, has the main responsibility in connection with the police, although at times it may be seen as an institution far removed from the minister. Nowadays the deputy minister is of major assistance to the minister in dealing with the police, but the central role in running the police falls to the minister.

[EL SEMANARIO] Is this not a European model, in which there are civilian directors or deputy ministers who are in charge of the police bodies?

[Caldera] The problem is that the European countries have huge police forces; they are complex institutions. If I remember correctly, immigration comes under the police in Spain and is handled by Spain's deputy interior minister. And besides this there are two major police forces: the National Police and the Civil Guard, not to mention other groups that I imagine complicate matters a bit more in the case of the Spaniards, such as the autonomous police forces, the municipal bodies, and the division of functions between the National Police and the Civil Guard. This forces the Spaniards to deal with a very high degree of complexity, and the ministry officials unquestionably need to have complex mechanisms for running these forces. Things are simpler in Nicaragua. There is a single National Police. The format cannot be exactly the same; it has to suit Nicaragua's own conditions. Police work requires interaction with government institutions for various budgetary matters and coordination. To instill confidence in a major segment of society it even requires knowing that someone from the government, from the institutional apparatus itself, is overseeing the work of the police. In short, I see this as better suited to our own conditions and as support for the minister's leadership. It has its similarities but its differences as well, because it is geared to Nicaragua's own conditions.

[EL SEMANARIO] One of the main legacies left to the police today, under Mrs. Chamorro's government, is the conflict between police officials and the new municipal authorities, mainly in the regions that saw warfare. How bad has this tension gotten at present?

[Caldera] I think that Minister Mendieta has played a very important role in this. The tensions between the police and certain mayors in the most polarized regions have been gradually overcome, have been subsiding. This trend has quickened since Minister Mendieta took over. The appointment of Licenciado Aviles is more recent but also points in the same direction. It bears noting that his efforts have helped a great deal, even though he has nothing to do with the police. But he has helped a great deal as deputy government minister and as a support for the minister, precisely because he has lived through all these conflicts. This was why he was a ministry delegate in the Chontales region, which was one of the most troubled. He played a major role there in smoothing out all these disagreements....

[EL SEMANARIO] Several superior police chiefs retired along with Commander Rene Vivas. The mass media speculated that this was due to pressure from the U.S. Government, etc.... How would you describe the current makeup of the police, in political terms? In other words, the National Police obviously has a political legacy going back to its creation, its original Sandinist makeup.... How has this been adjusted over time, and how do you view the police in the current political context?

[Caldera] I think that the National Police is a national, professional body and is not partisan in the sense that it does not belong to any political party. It has a duty to the nation and to the Nicaraguan people; it is hierarchically subordinate to the government. It has a Sandinist origin in terms of its members, but when I say that the National Police is not partisan, I mean that this has to do with the conscience, the personal and moral values of each person. We also have a large group of demobilized members of the resistance who are from the counterrevolution, especially in regions one, five, and six. But the issue of Sandinism is an issue for the personal conscience of each member. When I say Sandinism, I am talking about political affiliation....

[EL SEMANARIO] So, just as the government minister is politically affiliated with a conservative movement, you too are affiliated with a Sandinist movement?

[Caldera] The minister of government is a political post. Mine is not. That is the difference. I have a professional post. I think that it is important to make this distinction. Now then, I, as an individual, unquestionably have my conscience, I have my sympathies, I have my affiliation. The point is that I am not in a political post. We have to be extraordinarily careful in this regard, because we are deeply involved in imparting justice. We abide by judicial orders and government orders. We have to be careful and keep far away from voicing political opinions. This does not mean that we cannot have our own moral, personal, revolutionary values, nor does it mean that we have to deny our history and our personal and institutional background. We have roots and we are proud of our roots. We are products of a revolution; we were born at a time of extraordinary change. I think that every self-respecting policeman feels this personal pride, and we are not going to be tricked into renouncing this today. That would be an act of cowardice. What we must be convinced of, however, is that political opinions must be voiced very carefully so as to further stability in Nicaragua. We must also be convinced that in doing our job we must abide by the law, by the country's judicial system, by the will of the government. This is what professionalism means, from a political standpoint.

[EL SEMANARIO] Let us move on to the professional task of the police. There is clearly a sense among citizens that crime is on the rise in Nicaragua, that new crimes are emerging. You spoke last week, for example, about holdups on buses, at stoplights, as well as the appearance of heavy drug trafficking, heavy drug consumption.... How are the police currently tackling the rise in crime and the emergence of these new crimes?

[Caldera] Crime in Nicaragua has increased. We expect that this year will close with a 12 percent rise over 1991, and that we will increase from 80 crimes a day in 1991 to 86 crimes a day in 1992. This would be a record for the past 10 years, the highest rate from 1982 to 1992. As the year draws to a close we estimate that there will be a record number of crimes committed in 1992. We have explained that crime worldwide normally increases by four or five percent; the increase in Nicaragua is very high. Some areas of the country are more troubled than others. Managua is the most troubled because it is the capital, because it has the largest concentration of population, and because it is where the most money is, this being one of the major motives for crime. But there are other regions of the country that are being hard hit, Jinotega for example, with kidnappings and murders, and other areas of the country are being hit too, like Leon, Chinandega, Masaya, and Matagalpa.

[EL SEMANARIO] During the government's two years more emphasis has been placed on the rise in abuses by members of the police than in previous years. Whether this is a creation of the mass media or is truly the case among police is not clear. Is this due to the new makeup of the National Police or to other factors?

[Caldera] We are doing a study of crime. But we must make a distinction between a crime and a misdemeanor. Policemen sometimes commit crimes and sometimes commit misdemeanors. When the mass media report the incident, at times they do not show proper legal judgment and confuse a crime with a misdemeanor. This is an important clarification, because at times the task forces of the superintendency do not distinguish crimes from misdemeanors. Several things should be pointed out here. First, there have always been abuses and improper actions by police. I think that they are being reported more now because of the degree to which police work has become politicized, not so much the work as such but the way it is interpreted. We said that there are people who think that this is no longer the police force it used to be and that, therefore, it ought to be run down and discredited in the eyes of the citizenry. I think that this is an extremely serious mistake. This police force is the one that the country needs and the one that is going to exist, and if this attitude is promoted, what is being promoted is anarchy, which will not give security even to the person promoting it. There is another group that feels that this is the same Sandinist police force as before, that it has not changed at all and does the same things as before. These people also want to discredit and tear it down. These two groups, poles apart, ultimately wind up doing the same thing. They are heavily pushing the idea of police abuses and issuing a lot of public accusations, without giving names, places, information, anything. We can see right away that these are just rumors that have been picked up or fabrications. They have tied this in with their claim that policemen have to be thrown out en masse. This is completely untrue. On the contrary, we are fighting for an expansion of the police. All of this reflects worsening conditions, a breakdown. This is one side. On the other side are the facts themselves. There have been crimes; there is no justification for them, but policemen commit them just like any other citizen. What we need here is an investigation of the members of other institutions, who also commit crimes. Then we could determine what percentage of the personnel does. The fact is that the country has a large police force, about 3,500 men. Such incidents will inevitably happen. Moreover, we have not had training courses for three years now, and training classes improve the quality of officials a great deal. We are conducting a study because we have the impression that most of the officials who have committed crimes are new members, people who have not taken courses, who have not had training but just stepped out on the street and started working. Personnel and Staff is working on a study to identify the personnel who have been committing crimes.

[EL SEMANARIO] Could this be the case with the murder of the young man in the Tayacanes building?

[Caldera] Yes, the person who killed the Tayacanes boy was a new recruit. The new recruits represent 25 to 30 percent of police staffing.

[EL SEMANARIO] With regard to the murder of the Sandinist Youth member, some newsmen have criticized the fact that the policeman who committed the crime was convicted but the people who were involved with him were acquitted....

[Caldera] We have already investigated that incident. The one who killed him was acting improperly; he was drunk and not on duty. I am not completely sure whether he was harassing the young man, but, if so, he was doing it in the company of other policemen. A third policeman stayed on at the party, dancing; he was at the other end. That third policeman is guilty of a disciplinary violation, but after speaking with the leader of Sandinist Youth, Soto, it appears completely certain that that policeman had absolutely nothing to do with it. What happened was "put in the book," but this policeman was treated very unfairly. When his colleagues in Sandinist Youth have spoken to the media, they have not been brave enough to correct themselves, even though they know that he was not involved in the death of the young man. There are really two. Why did they let the other one go? I really do not know. I do not have the basis for judgment that the Auditor's Office does. I think that they let him go because the other fellow was the one who did the killing. There is a judicial concept involved here too. People say that it was murder; it was not. It was voluntary manslaughter. This is when you kill someone arbitrarily as a result of an argument, a quarrel; you just feel the urge to kill him. Murder involves other elements, under the law.

[EL SEMANARIO] I would like to take up the issue of drug trafficking. A feature article in BARRICADA has been the focus of attention for three days now and has caused quite a controversy among parents. It revealed some statistics, which seem to be coming to light only now, about the fact that young people in secondary schools are using drugs like cocaine, crack, and particularly marijuana. The article cites places that the young people interviewed mentioned themselves. What surveillance are the police undertaking, and what measures are they taking to combat trafficking and consumption among these groups, even in secondary schools?

[Caldera] First of all I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address this issue, because it is an important one. We have to start a campaign in the country to clarify this issue. First we have to distinguish between drug trafficking and domestic consumption. Drug trafficking involves the movement of drugs northward, with Nicaragua being used as a bridge. Domestic consumption involves the drugs that are produced here or brought in from the outside to be consumed in the country. We Nicaraguans have to ask ourselves which of the two hurts us more and, consequently, which we ought to combat the hardest. The BARRICADA article has helped to raise the national consciousness that here in Nicaragua we have to tackle internal consumption and trafficking resolutely, because it hurts us Nicaraguans the most. Our second priority must be to keep international drug trafficking out. These drugs, which other countries are not battling as effectively as they ought to be, come from outside Nicaragua, because cocaine is not produced in Nicaragua. Cocaine is brought into Nicaragua by international traffickers, and to the extent that these cartels seek out Nicaragua as a bridge, Nicaragua is being used to harm other countries. It is important to combat drug trafficking. Latin American governments need to do it because they are being hard hit by rising drug consumption, which is also doing serious harm to the United States, the major market for cocaine in the Americas. This year the police have been hitting hard at consumption, at the little cartels; they have seized drugs and have arrested people involved in this and brought them before the courts. We have also managed to conduct operations to cut off international trafficking, above all in Zelaya Norte. We struck two major blows this year. As far as consumption is concerned, we have managed to make do. I personally think that since money is involved, the sale and use of drugs in the country is increasing; it has every opportunity in the world and has no budget problems. I think that we have to improve the ability of the police to combat drugs. I also think that civilian groups (taking a public-spirited approach) need to be set up in Nicaragua to tackle the drug problem. Several preliminary bills are before the National Assembly to address this need. Young people need to be educated about how damaging drug use is to their health and to their future. Up to now everything has depended on what a newspaper might choose to publish, but there has not been a systematic campaign. Drugs ought to be combated the way AIDS is, with an educational campaign. The reason is that what has happened in some countries could happen to us, in the sense that traffickers are seen as morally legitimate in those societies because they have money, because they are rich, because they have cars. That could happen if society does not keep its eyes open and confront them on an ethical level. We must acknowledge that people in Nicaragua have denounced our domestic traffickers. We must not lose this concept.

[EL SEMANARIO] What are the current prospects for both local training and foreign technical assistance for the police? Are the academies that used to exist still around? Are there plans to set up new academies? What courses do police officers take for professional training?

[Caldera] It is essential, a necessity of the first order, to open the academy (Walter Mendoza) by 1993. The academy exists; money was spent on it this year for repairs, and it is more or less big enough. The Spanish Government, for one, is altogether willing to help us set it up; under its offer the Nicaraguan Government has to do its share. We will be opening it for two purposes: to train the new contingents joining the police, and to offer refresher courses for existing personnel who need technical training if we want to have a professional force. It is police technique that makes a policeman; the danger is that we will lose this police technique, which has not been lost yet. Some of our policemen have been trained in other countries around the world, and this has enabled us to maintain our professionalism. Moreover, we are not sitting still. Although we do not have the Walter

Mendoza Academy yet, we are benefited by having some of our people studying law under a Leon UNAN [National Autonomous University of Nicaragua] program, a hands-on law program. The first contingent graduated last year; this year another contingent does, and other colleagues are taking other programs. Of course this does not meet all our needs, but we are making this response with the support of UNAN. And owing to the very nature of our work this is technical skills training. The police are making a sacrifice, an effort; you find departmental chiefs who are lawyers or second-, third-, or fourth-year law students.

[EL SEMANARIO] The restructuring of the commands is still creating expectations. Is this over, or does something remain to be done?

[Caldera] We are doing two things that bear explaining today. On the one hand, we are talking with Government Ministry and administration officials about structure and size, because size involves money and so does structure. We are planning to transfer about 400 colleagues from the administrative apparatus that supports the ministry to the operational apparatuses of the police, the prison system, and immigration, in other words, the vital ones. This group is going mainly into the police. But administrative staff is less expensive than operational staff, because administrative staff works from 0800 to 1300, and operational staff works all day, eats several meals, wears out more shoes and clothing, and uses more fuel. The very act of moving personnel from one area to another is a budgetary issue that needs to be discussed, and the hiring of new personnel also affects the budget. This discussion is going on with Government Ministry officials, who are very interested and very much want to see us boost the strength of the police, and with the administration, which is also interested but has budgetary limitations. We are involved in this give-and-take. This is in the area of structure and size. As far as appointments are concerned, the process is moving ahead. We have two colleagues taking over in Leon and Chinandega: Cordero and Rugama, and the appointment of the new departmental chiefs is going to be confirmed over the next few days. BARRICADA once gave me total power over appointments, and this is what the Organic Law says. But since I want to work together with the authorities in the Government Ministry, I am talking this over with them. The opinion of the ministry is very important to me. In other words, although the Organic Law gives us a power, you have to realize clearly that this has to be brought up for discussion.

Panama

President Endara Gives Weekly News Conference

PA1601195393 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2015 GMT 14 Jan 93

[News conference by President Guillermo Endara at the Presidential Palace, moderated by presidential press secretary Rene Hernandez, with foreign and domestic correspondents—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Hernandez] Journalist Javier Ortega of Radio Exitosa.

[Ortega] Good afternoon, Mr. President.

[Endara] Good afternoon.

[Ortega] As you have already answered one of my questions, I would now like to know about the charges that have been made against customs offices, specifically in two important places. It is said there is drug trafficking in the Bocas del Toro and Colon customs offices. In respect to the measures you are taking, I would like to know what you are doing or what orders you have given the finance and treasury minister in these cases.

[Endara] I have talked with the finance and treasury minister about those charges, and he has asked that investigations be advanced as soon as possible. The finance and treasury minister and I are most interested in getting those investigations going as soon as possible to clarify what is happening. We will act immediately and discharge the culprits and take adequate corrective measures if it is discovered that illegal actions are indeed occurring in those offices. Up to now, we have in our hands no evidence of wrongdoing.

[Ortega] As a native of Bocas del Toro, I want to ask a quick question on gunrunning activities in that province. The Costa Rican rural police has reported gunrunning activities from Nicaragua. Could the gunrunning generate security problems in Panama?

[Endara] Gunrunning, like drug trafficking, is a despicable business. There is much talk, and several intelligence reports mention gunrunning. We are trying to control it. Unfortunately, because of its nature, the business is carried out in a very discreet manner and, as far as we know, on a small scale. We are not talking about truck loads of weapons but the piece by piece sale of arms. The matter causes concern, but I do not believe it will threaten the government. Although, undoubtedly it does not benefit us.

Most of the armament moved by gun traffickers is not to be used in subversive activity. This fact has been reported by intelligence sectors. Almost all the contraband weapons are used by criminals. Thus the situation is even worse, because the arms are going to be used against the people, not against the government. That is all I can say on the matter right now. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Journalist Roberto Rodriguez of Radio KW Continente.

[Rodriguez] President, at this time Panamanian, U.S., and Japanese commissioners are deciding on two alternatives to the existing waterway: a sea level canal or a third set of locks, parallel to the canal. It has been said that there was some sort of friction in the commission and that Minister Guillermo Elias Quijano was sent to Washington to smooth things over. Apparently, the problem has been solved, but we would like to know

what happened and if it will alter the decision the commission must make at this precise moment.

[Endara] The commission is not deciding currently on canal alternatives. They are deciding on the date they will submit their final report. They will not issue a report on 14 January. They are deciding the date it will be issued. I understand that one of the dates being discussed is September 1993. They could, however, decide on another date.

Panama has not prompted any friction in the commission. You know the commissions that clashed. Panama has not caused any friction. The problem, however, has apparently been solved. [passage omitted]

[Hernandez] Journalist Gisela Vergara of Circuito RPC Television.

[Vergara] Good afternoon.

[Endara] Good afternoon.

[Vergara] Mr. President, the United States announced that it will reduce its military personnel in Panama by 40 to 50 percent, starting on 14 January and through 1994. What is the government's opinion on this?

[Endara] I believe it is a clear and conclusive sign that the United States will comply with the canal treaties. All the people who thought the invasion and my government had been imposed to allow the United States to stay in Panama should now think differently. It is a very concrete and unambiguous manifestation of the U.S. intention to comply with the treaties. I have always been convinced they would comply but those who have not been convinced should see this fact as a corroboration that they will comply. Our concern, of course, is for the Panamanians who work in the area. It is our big concern.

[Vergara] Thank you. [passage omitted]

Panama Joins UN Embargo on Serbia, Montenegro

PA1701201393 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 17 Jan 93 p 2A

[By Arnulfo Barroso Watson]

[Text] Panama has joined the total embargo ordered by the UN Security Council against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), because of the intensified violence in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

The embargo includes the delivery of weapons and military supplies, the importation to Panama of all products originating in Serbia and Montenegro, activities promoting the export or transshipment of merchandise from Panama, and transactions involving Yugoslav products by vessels and aircraft flying the Panamanian flag.

Also banned are the transfer of funds and takeoffs, landings, or overflights of Yugoslav aircraft—except for humanitarian reasons—over Panamanain territory. Yugoslav consular and diplomatic personnel in our country will be reduced and Yugoslav athletes are banned from participating in any events in Panama.

The UN decision reflected in Resolution No. 752 stems from "serious" violations of cease-fire agreements that have caused casualties and damage.

The UN resolution ordered Serbia and Montenegro to cease immediately all forms of external meddling in Bosnia-Hercegovina and stated this measure will be maintained until the Security Council decides otherwise.

Union Urges Government To Resist Pressure

PA1701034593 Panama City EL PANAMA AMERICA in Spanish 15 Jan 93 p 9 A

[Report by Juan M. Diaz]

[Text] Aniano Pinzon, the secretary general of the Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama (CTRP), said on 14 January that the Panamanian authorities should resist any type of pressure from U.S. Government officials to modify the Labor Code in order to sign a free trade agreement (TLC).

Pinzon pointed out that Myles Frechette, assistant U.S. trade representative, stated during the last round of negotiations that ended on 11 January in preparation for the implementation of the TLC, that the Panamanian Labor Code was an obstacle to economic growth.

The union representative said the Panamanian economy has shown progressive growth during the last two years and the current labor legislation has not been an impediment to the business and trade development in the country.

Carlos Soussa Lennox, the executive secretary of the National Association of Cattlemen (Anagan), stated that a hasty lowering of import tariff barriers, as was agreed during the TLC approval negotiations, could mean the disappearance of a large number of agricultural and livestock producers.

Lennox said a timetable should be established that is consistent with the current situation of the agriculture and livestock sectors and the economic modernization process, and then reduce import taxes. Eduardo Vallarino, the president of the National Council of Private Enterprise (Conep), suggested the TLC with the United States would produce a positive effect on the national economy, as there will be a much broader market for Panamanian products.

Nevertheless, he added this type of negotiation should be handled with caution and seek the best interests of the country. He added that lifting tax barriers must be done gradually and only when the national market is ready.

Mulino Wishes To Continue Good U.S. Relations

PA1701225393 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 17 Jan 93 p 2A

[Report by Manuel Alvarez Cedeno]

[Excerpt] Deputy Foreign Minister Jose Mulino stated the government of Guillermo Endara wishes to continue "good relations" with the administration of U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, who will take office on 20 January.

"I cannot say it is expected, but we do want continuity in the good relations we have with a new U.S. Government that has a historic similarity: it was a Democratic government that negotiated and signed the canal treaties," Mulino noted.

Regarding the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, Mulino said: "I do not believe there will be any changes with the new administration because the Democrats have an even greater commitment to respect that international commitment." [passage omitted]

Argentina

Defense Minister Confirms Military Policy

PY1501204793 Buenos Aires Radio Nacional Network in Spanish 1500 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez confirmed today that a political decision has been made in Argentina to assist nations that are being attacked by other nations with more powerful weapons in an attempt to subjugate them. Gonzalez held a news conference during which reporters asked about the country's position on Iraq's new incursions into Kuwait. Gonzalez said the country is waiting for a UN resolution on the matter. This is an excerpt of Gonzalez' news conference:

[Begin recording] With respect to the new conflict with Iraq—I say new conflict, because this is a new stage in the conflict—you all know that there has been an attack against clearly military targets in Iraq, in answer to Iraq's violations of agreements concluded at the end of operation Desert Storm and its clear violations of UN Security Council resolutions. As a consequence there was an attack against military targets, surface to air missile sites, communications systems, and other types of heavy weapons that Iraq had moved into the exclusion zone and which were threatening peace in the the region.

This is what happened 48 hours ago. The United Nations will now have to reevaluate whether this threat against peace has been destroyed. The United Nations will then decide whether there is a need for renewed operations, if there is a need to again form a coalition force to maintain peace and enforce respect for the sovereign rights of other nations. Only after this definition is made will Argentina know the nature of the operations, whether it can participate, and under what conditions. [end recording]

Iraqi Embassy Official on U.S. Airstrike

PY1601004293 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1913 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jan (NA)—Munith Musin [name as received], charge d'affaires at the Iraqi Embassy in Argentina, today said that "if the problems of the past 50 years are not solved, there will be no peace" in the Persian Gulf, adding that "the only reason" for the allied attack on Iraq was "to steal" the oil wealth from the region.

The diplomat stated that "Iraq wants to place the oil wealth in hands of the Arab people," but, he said, "the multinational powers are stealing our wealth."

"This is the only reason they have been attacking Saddam Husayn," he declared.

In statements to Radio Continental, Musin said that four people died and 20 others were injured during the allied attack 13 January and indicated that the "majority" of the victims had been civilians.

The allies, he said, "attacked a neighborhood in Basra" aiming at "civilian objectives, such as hospitals and residential neighborhoods."

Musin added that Saddam Husayn "continues to be the strongman of Iraq, because he is defending national interests" and "is a symbol of the struggle of the Arab world and the free world."

"Saddam maintains power and will continue" at the head of the Iraqi Government, Musin added.

The Iraqi diplomat stated: "All Arabs are the same," but "there are governors who do not represent the Arab world" because "they are puppets and thieves of the wealth" in our area.

As an example he mentioned "Iraq, Algiera, and Libya," as countries "with legitimate rulers of the people."

Regarding the Persian Gulf war, the diplomat explained his version of the origin of the war by saying that "Iraq did not invade Kuwait" but "offered military assistance" to "a group of Kuwaiti officers who carried out a revolution against the puppet sheikh" of that country.

Baghdad, he said, clarified that "the military assistance would not remain for just a week," adding that "the American plan had been prepared over the last 10 years, to gain military control of the entire gulf for its oil wealth, which represents nearly 80 percent of the oil reserves of the world."

"The Americans did not give Iraq time to withdraw its troops from Kuwait, and in a (?week) they sent [word indistinct] thousand men with all their armament," Musin said.

He added: "That criminal Bush wanted during his last days in government to place Bill Clinton in a difficult position," as the U.S. president-elect "has another view of the situation" in the Persian Gulf.

Clinton, he said, "wants to reduce expenses and withdraw troops, a line of action that goes against the Pentagon and the CIA."

According to Musin, current U.S. President George "Bush, who represents [words indistinct], wanted to complicate the future actions of Clinton."

He stated that "this is why he provoked Iraq, which has the patience of a camel," adding that "six months ago, when the zone below Parallel 39 was declared an exclusion zone, Bush wanted Iraq to react so as to have a pretext to again attack it."

"Iraq (?realized) the move, and did not give Bush a chance," Musin said.

As for the overall situation in the conflict area, Musin said that "if the problems of the past 50 years are not solved, there will be no peace" in the region. He then mentioned the situation of the Palestinians in Israel.

Finally, Musin denied that the Iraqi regime is violating the human rights of the Kurdish minority, adding that the region "has enjoyed autonomy over the past 30 years, and even the Iraqi vice president" is Kurdish.

Ambassador Meets With Chilean Defense Minister

PY1501133893 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0932 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Santiago, 15 Jan (TELAM-ASIN)—Following a meeting with Chile's Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, Argentine Ambassador to Chile Antonio Cafiero said the reformulation of military spending or a "coordinated spending reduction" concerns the Argentine and Chilean Governments.

Cafiero visited Rojas to bid farewell prior to his return next week, his tour in Santiago having ended.

Cafiero said important progress was made "without doubt" to increase Argentine-Chilean mutual trust. He stressed the advances in matters relating to energy, Chilean investments in Argentina, trade, migration regulations, and specific defense matters.

The Argentine ambassador announced that Argentine President Carlos Menem will visit Chile in April during the commemoration of the anniversary of the battle of Maipu.

Minister Di Tella on Clinton Foreign Policy

PY1601022793 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2233 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Salta, 14 Jan (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella has stated that "the general guidelines of Mr. (Bill) Clinton's policy with regard to Latin America in general and to Argentina in particular will remain very much the same as they are now. This stems from the conversation President (Carlos Saul) Menem had with the U.S. president-elect."

Di Tella went on to say that "this has been corroborated by the guarantees given by the United States to the signatories of the free trade treaty—Mexico and Canada. With respect to the Americas Initiative, Clinton has committed himself to continue furthering it with renewed vigor." Di Tella made this statement to the Madrid correspondent of the newspaper EL TRIBUNO, which published it in today's edition.

Di Tella further stated that "where there will definitely be changes is with the issue of Haiti. It is my opinion that Democratic Party policy on Haiti is closer to what we have proposed. We were like a voice crying in the wilderness because we thought that the issue would not be solved by mere exhortations. I believe that United Nations participation in supplementing OAS endeavors is a step forward. That is the policy we support, and one which President-elect Clinton is beginning to promote."

Shortly before leaving for Paris, Di Tella told the aforementioned Salta daily that "otherwise, U.S. foreign policy will be very similar to current policy. There are going to be minor changes regarding China, and greater emphasis on human rights. It is our considered opinion that this is perfectly consistent with our foreign policy."

Asked about Argentina's trade balance deficit with Brazil, Di Tella explained that "two years ago, we had a considerable surplus in our balance of trade; now the balance has tipped in favor of Brazil. This situation was overcome during the last months of 1992. I really do not see a serious problem there," he added, underlining the fact that this is the way common markets operate "sometimes benefitting one party to the detriment of another. There are no universal benefits."

Di Tella further stated that "the European Community has discovered a very interesting prospect in Mercosur [Common Market of the South]. The EC is quite interested in Mercosur. It has also shown interest in the Rio Group, but to a lesser degree. Mercosur is seen as a nascent organization which will follow in the EC's footsteps. It has both a significant gross domestic product and a considerable growth rate, as well as a high export-import capacity."

In a statement to the press in Paris, Di Tella pointed out the efforts made by Argentina and other countries in the region so that Latin America might be a zone free from weapons of mass destruction.

Di Tella took part in the ceremony at UNESCO headquarters in Paris marking the signing of the treaty banning chemical weapons.

He said that "the struggle against weapons of mass destruction is essential to attaining international peace and security." He then referred to the agreements Argentina had signed within the framework of its nonproliferation policy.

Among them Di Tella mentioned the "Mendoza Commitments" signed by Argentina, Brazil, and Chile in 1991 on the banning of chemical and biological weapons. Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, and Uruguay later adhered to this treaty.

He then spoke about the Tlatelolco Treaty signed by Argentina, Brazil, Chile, and Mexico so that Latin America might soon become a nuclear-free zone. If there is political will and the courage of one's convictions to make the necessary decisions, it is possible to draft effective agreements to check the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction." [no beginning quotation marks as received]

Di Tella flatly rejected the concept of chemical weapons as "the bomb of the poor," a phrase he termed "revolting." In conclusion he stated that the treaty "is a step forward in the quest for stability."

Former Communist Leader Rubens Iscaro Dies

PY1701214093 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1047 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Summary] Buenos Aires, 14 Jan (NA)—Former Communist leader Rubens Iscaro, one of the founders of the 62 Organizations, died on 13 January at the age of 78. Iscaro, who was expelled from the Communist Party of Argentina in 1987, was one of the founders of the 62 Organizations when union leaders, mostly Peronists, left a congress called by the General Confederation of Workers in 1956.

Bolivia

La Paz City Hall, MBL Offices Attacked

PY1601111793 La Paz Television Nacional Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] The attacks committed today, one against La Paz City Hall and another against the MBL [Free Bolivia Movement] offices in Sucre, are under investigation, according to the interior minister and the police commander.

The latest terrorist attacks against La Paz City Hall and the MBL's Sucre office today at dawn have caused great concern among citizens. Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra said investigations are under way.

[Begin recording] [Saavedra] Just as we captured terrorists in the past, in this case we believe it was not a terrorist attack committed by a guerrilla group but against an individual group with the purpose of tarnishing this democratic election process. Our ministry will not rest in looking for those responsible until we find them.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Saavedra] There are only preliminary conclusions in the two cases. We found a pamphlet attacking Mantilla [La Paz' mayor]. It is rather a personal letter threatening him. In the case of the attack against the MBL offices, we also found a letter accusing the MBL of being traitors, signed by a group called 15 de Enero. We believe it is rather a political attack in the two cases. We will have no considerations [words indistinct]. [end recording]

The investigations carried out in the past few hours in La Paz and Sucre do not involve the EGTK [Tupak Katari Guerrilla Army]. The interior minister said the attack against La Paz City Hall seems more like a personal attack. In the case of the attack against the MBL offices, it seems more like a political attack.

The following are statements by Police Commander General Luis Prieto:

[Begin recording] An investigation is a continuous, permanent process that does not establish terms. I promised that all investigations begun by my predecessor will continue. That is our plan. [end recording]

The investigations to find the perpetrators of these terrorist attacks will continue because it is desired that the country live in an atmosphere of peace and tranquility before the next general elections.

Drug Traffickers Fail To Fulfill Bargain

PY1501214093 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 8 Jan 93 p 7

[Text] Spokesmen for the Special Antinarcotics Force (FELCN) said yesterday that the seven alleged major drug traffickers who surrendered to the government in exchange for a promise not to be extradited to the United States did not fulfill a minimum part of the conditions established in the "repentance" decree.

During a brief encounter with reporters, the sources said that instead of assuming their responsibilities with courage, the so-called "narco-repenters" only tried to reduce their sentences and forgot that Decree 22881 guarantees that they will not be extradited only if they fulfil certain conditions.

"It is not necessary to make an in-depth analysis to see what happened. The seven drug traffickers who surrendered did not fulfill a minimum part of the conditions established in the repentance decree. They did not even admit their responsibility with courage," the sources said.

"They only worried about reducing their sentences but forgot that they also had to surrender their assets to the government, something they did only to a minimum degree. They also had to cooperate with us to arrest other drug traffickers, which they did not do at all," the sources added.

These remarks contrast with statements by Interior Minister Carlos Saavedra, who during a news conference yesterday said that the "narco-repenters" had fulfilled the conditions established in the "repentance" decree "to a large extent."

"The way I understand it, they (the repenters) have fulfilled most of the provisions of the decree. The rest, such as penalties and sentences, are still being discussed," the minister said.

Asked about the drug traffickers' cooperation in capturing other drug traffickers, Saavedra, without giving details, said: "In our opinion there has been a lot of cooperation."

Drug traffickers Erwin Guzman (the "lieutenant"); Antonio Naciff; Hugo Rivero (the "emperor of drugs"); Alcides Guardia; Oscar Roca; Winston Rodriguez; and Jorge Flores (the "captain") surrendered to the government in 1991 with the promise that they would not be extradited if they fulfilled the conditions of Decree 22881.

According to anti-narcotics organizations, the prerequisites included a confession, which none of the drug traffickers have fully complied with; the surrender of drug traffickers'

assets to the state, which was also only partially fulfilled; and above all, cooperation in capturing other drug traffickers, which has not been fulfilled at all.

Brazil

Household Chief Requests Details of Charges

PY1501172793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 14 Jan 93 p 5

["Text" of telegram sent by Civil Household Chief Henrique Hargreaves to Bahia Governor Antonio Carlos Magalhaes, ACM]

[Text] "Mr. Governor:

"I read with interest Your Excellency's interview published on 13 January in O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO, entitled "ACM Says Corruption Continues," and immediately informed His Excellency President Itamar Franco of its content. The president has instructed me ask Your Excellency to provide clear and detailed information on the possible centers of corruption in the public administration. By doing this Your Excellency will be rendering the Nation a very important service. I can tell you that we have recently made in depth evaluations of our public bidding system and the administration thereof to prevent the occurrence of any irregularity. Considering that your Excellency's claims were published, I am making the text of this telegram public.

"I reiterate my appreciation and esteem of Your Excellency."

Franco Voices Concerns About Privatization

PY1701230293 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jan 93 p 41

[Text] Juiz de Fora—President Itamar Franco reiterated yesterday that he is very concerned about privatizations and that he does not know if he will sign, on 18 January, the decree with 63 articles that consolidates the privatization program's regulations. The decree's latest version was delivered to the president on 14 January by Jose de Castro, consultant general of the Republic. Franco also said he is concerned about the situation of Lloyd Brasileiro [Brazilian State Shipping Company].

Franco said: I am studying the decree by myself, but I still have many doubts that should be clarified.

If the doubts persist, Franco will meet again on 18 January with Jose de Castro; Antonio Barros de Castro, president of the BNDES [National Bank for Economic and Social development]; and Planning Minister Paulo Haddad. Yesterday afternoon Franco met lawyer Wanderkolk Moreira, one of the Destatization Committee members. Before the meeting, Moreira did not want to reveal the issues to be discussed with the president.

Franco said the decree is long and should be studied very carefully, but he does not plan to change the bidding dates.

President Franco also said that government leaders are working with the expectation that the fiscal reform will be approved on 19 January. He also said he does not plan to interfere in the negotiations the leaders are holding in Congress to get the fiscal reform approved.

President Franco gave up trying to avoid the reporters who have been on watch in front of his house since 0800 yesterday. Franco gave up after being followed by reporters on the street.

You do not allow me to have any tranquility or peace of mind, said Franco after inviting reporters to have some beer.

Labor Minister Barelli Grants Interview

PY1601150093 Sao Paulo ISTOE SENHOR in Portuguese 13 Jan 93 pp 3-6

[Interview with Labor Minister Walter Barelli by Nelson Letaif and Silvio Ferraz in Sao Paulo; date not given]

[Text] [ISTOE SENHOR] How do you feel about sitting on the side of the negotiating table that is opposite your usual position? Is the labor minister satisfied, for instance, with the salary law or the minimum wage that was approved?

[Barelli] Not at all. We are attempting to carry out a dialogue with society. Regarding the minimum wage, I must say that we will begin by paying as much as some African countries. The minimum wage in Senegal and Cabo Verde is $100. Now we want to pay at Southern Cone levels. The minimum wage is $200 [per month] in Argentina and $170 in Paraguay. The common market supposes similar institutions, and we are moving toward integration. Integration is made at the upper not the lower levels.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Such as the European common market?

[Barelli] Exactly. In order to join the European common market, Portugal and Spain had to raise their standards to the levels of France and Italy. Italy, France, and England did not have to lower their standards to the level of fascist Spanish or Portuguese standards. In order to participate in Mercosur [Common Market of the South], Brazilians must have the same salary levels as the other member countries.

[ISTOE SENHOR] How will we accomplish that?

[Barelli] We are implementing an income policy, and we are sending signals to the market. The people, the workers, will gradually have more money to spend. We began by changing the system of salary adjustments every two months, but that was too little, only 5 percent more. It did not have a real effect. It did not create more stock on the shelves. That is why the government decided to pay the 147 percent pension increase. Did you see what happened? Pensioners' consumption mobilized the market and proved that this market is very small.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Were you surprised at December's shopping levels?

[Barelli] We are announcing things that will have an effect in stages. During January we will have another small impact with the change in adjustments for those earning up to six minimum salaries. In February we will feel the effect of the adjustment of public salaries. In April we will implement the minimum salary bimonthly adjustment. We are saying: "Begin planting, begin watching because this country is going to have a larger internal market. Get ready because we do not want—like in other times—salary adjustments to mean just more inflation." This is a policy of work with expectations in favor, not against.

[ISTOE SENHOR] In the past, workers were laid off every time the minimum salary had a sharp increase after four months without adjustments. This situation particularly affected home workers.

[Barelli] Why did we not have any layoffs now? Because as good economists, people realized the effect of working with expectations against them, but now we begin working with expectations in favor. In October I said the minimum wage would be raised to $100. People said: "It is too high." The minimum wage will be $100, and no one spoke about laying off people, at least up until now. Except for an unproductive economist, economists in general did not say the adjustments would have an inflationary effect.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Who is he?

[Barelli] He is just unproductive.

[ISTOE SENHOR] What about the PT [Workers Party], with which you have long-term relations? Have they understood your limitations? Or do they demand more?

[Barelli] I was never a party member. I was closer to the PT because I joined the parallel government. We have a complicated dialogue with some people who think we can do anything because we are in government. These people want the minimum wage raised to $350.

[ISTOE SENHOR] What should it be?

[Barelli] I believe the minimum wage, to be what DIEESE [Interunion Department for Statistics and Socioeconomic Studies] wants, should be 4 million cruzeiros. The previous government's salary policy was the worst of all policies. The Superior Labor Court is improving that salary policy. The court is able to implement the monthly adjustments and everything else. Therefore, we will work according to our possibilities, realizing that the people want to overcome all obstacles and that the main problem is not the salary; the main problem is unemployment.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Are you afraid of unemployment with the implementation of a basic salary of $100?

[Barelli] I said, I even mentioned it to the president, that I prefer that the ministry be called the Ministry of Employment because now we must concern ourselves with employment and the unemployed. They are not earning any salary, and we need to incorporate that large mass into the work force.

[ISTOE SENHOR] The Franco administration wants to implement a program to create jobs. Do you not believe that 1 million or 500,000 jobs can be created only with great projects such as road construction or other projects that need unskilled manual labor?

[Barelli] The government carried out all kinds of surveys. The program that will have the greatest impact will indeed be road work, which will be done by the Transportation Ministry in the road repair program.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Explain that program.

[Barelli] The program will involve the roads used for production. Minister Alberto Goldman has a good phrase to define that program. He calls it the "reconstruction of the roads for development." Not just any road will be included in the program. If you look at how the budget was voted on, you will find that many deputies wrote: "Build the road next to my parish." It is not like that. We will rebuild the roads that are taking trucks two days to go through because that increases the cost of food in the cities.

[ISTOE SENHOR] How long will it take for that program to have an impact on labor?

[Barelli] As the construction program moves on, 30 or 40 days. All you need is a well managed project, the roads that are selected, and who will do it. Manual labor is available because we have a very large labor reserve. Personally, I would like to have a work force program to face the unemployment crisis in the first four months because it will involve the central part and the metropolitan regions such as the prefectures, but the fiscal amendment has not been voted on yet, and money is the great restriction this government has.

[ISTOE SENHOR] You already have expressed sympathy for the union gains obtained by Brazil's anarchist movement. Would that not create some panic among business groups, some of which expressed opposition to your appointment as labor minister through their organizations?

[Barelli] That is difficult to say. I believe businessmen need to have the same modern style in their labor relations as in the machinery they are importing. With the progress of the so-called productive forces they need to have a different superstructure and they need to think differently. We have a group of businessmen who are thinking in Brazil; they are realizing that the chance is now to have a new model, a new reorganization of the economy, and as labor minister I have to do the part related to labor relations.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Where is that group? In the PNBE [National Entrepreneurial Grassroots Coordinating Board]?

[Barelli] In the PNBE, in the IEDI [Institute for Industrial Development Studies], etc., and also in the election of leaders of FIESP [Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries] and CNI [National Confederation of Industries]. I attended their installations; I know several members of their executive boards, and their speeches are now modern.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Isn't it exercised in an old-fashioned manner?

[Barelli] I believe these managements cannot be evaluated like they want to evaluate the Franco administration. I believe the FIESP board agrees with the Franco administration. We are beginning with important entrepreneurial entities, with new compositions, and with new projects. I trust them very much, particularly because I have negotiated with all of them.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Do you deem the FIESP debate on the government's role in the economy healthy?

[Barelli] I will not discuss the merit of the issue because I do not know all the details. I believe that, if considered from the strategic point of view, Brazil can learn from Japan. There is no laissez-faire in Japan. As a matter of fact, no country in the world has the sort of laissez-faire preached by the last administration, which considered some businessmen's position outdated. The government has a structuring role. This is modern, extremely modern. To say "no government at all," is to be one and a half to two centuries behind.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Keynes already said that...

[Barelli] It is extremely modern to say: We must know the steps we will have to take in the future. We must know which role we will assign to the government and which we will assign to private initiative. To believe that those who say that is outdated is to adopt a merely ideological position. It would be like thinking that all who called for social justice were communists. It is a senseless, ideological narrow mindedness.

[ISTOE SENHOR] At least one banker believes that "privatization certificates" ["moedas de privatizacao"] should be called "rotten certificates" ["moedas podres"] because if they are called that, they will not be rotten at all. What do you think?

[Barelli] The government cannot call the certificates it issued "rotten certificates." Although issued during another administration, they were issued by the government. Modifications to the privatization program are being supported by all knowledgeable people. Cases similar to the following are occurring: I will not deliver a company that had profit in the last six months and did not distribute the profit. In other words, I would be buying a pregnant cow and profiting by it because, in addition to the cow, I would be getting a calf. Some state-owned companies are being sold in this fashion, with a profit that was not distributed in the previous fiscal year. What's the idea? Are we being bothered by an economic policy program? What is bothering us: the 20 years' debt or our current needs in terms of resources to finance governmental projects? Is privatization itself bothering us? Take the Mafersa [Railway Equipment, Inc.] case as an example. The Mafersa is exporting to a subway company in the United States, in Miami, I believe. Mafersa was purchased by employee pension funds from two state-owned companies. Mafersa is being administered by the workers through a certain mechanism. To seek other ways of privatizing the companies is not to oppose privatization, but to think intelligently.

[ISTOE SENHOR] What is the real situation of the Severance Pay Fund nowadays? It is said that this is a good example of rotten papers.

[Barelli] The Severance Pay Fund's money has been very badly administered. If all the workers were dismissed at the same time, there would be no money to pay their Severance Pay Fund. The money no longer exists.

[ISTOE SENHOR] What should be done?

[Barelli] We will have to plan a huge nationwide negotiation.

[ISTOE SENHOR] With the workers?

[Barelli] This is a Brazilian problem. The Congress did this as a way of allowing us to receive money we would only receive at the time of retirement. I still have no solution to this problem.

[ISTOE SENHOR] But this would be something like confiscating these funds.

[Barelli] I do not want to say anything on that. We will have to think up some sort of a compensation similar to the one given for the confiscated money: Those who did not withdraw their funds are now receiving higher interest rates.

[ISTOE SENHOR] But who received less in real terms?

[Barelli] The government will honor the workers' money, including in the discussion the state and municipal administrations that do not pay. It is not that the money does not belong to anyone; it belongs to the workers. Therefore, it must return to them; it is sacred money. The government will honor its commitment.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Everything indicates a moratorium. Could payments be suspended for two years, for example?

[Barelli] We will discuss it. The oversight board, on which the workers are represented, and the labor unions will have to think together with us on obtaining a higher interest rate. The lowest interest rate in the market is that paid by the Severence Pay Fund [FGTS]. If we can make it have the same rate as other financial investments, we will be able to make a deal.

[ISTOE SENHOR] The FGTS deficit was originated by the legal mechanism that allowed FGTS funds to finance infrastructure works and other kinds of construction. Is that use for the funds valid?

[Barelli] The FGTS was created for that. It was so generous, it collected so much money, that it allowed the financing of housing construction for the middle and upper classes and even of infrastructure works in cities, which means it was a large amount of money. Now, it is currently supposed to finance the construction of low-income housing, but it is really for blackmailing: In exchange for labor stability, you stay with your FGTS saved in cruzeiros with a 3 percent monetary correction, a very low interest rate.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Has the FGTS become a good deal for the middle class?

[Barelli] Yes. The FGTS mechanism has become an income transfer process, mainly for the middle class, a mechanism from which many of us benefit. I personally am one of its beneficiaries. Most of the people who joined the system benefited from it, and the owner of that money was not consulted about that transfer because the fund was not administered with any control.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Is its administration currently being controlled?

[Barelli] Nowadays, we have three workers representatives in it, each one from a labor organization. There are also three business representatives. The meetings are well prepared and there are extended discussions during them. The workers are practically prepared to assume the control of their money. Unfortunately, the workers are assuming control in times were there is no money in the fund.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Is there any possibility that a national housing plan will be reactivated to also create jobs?

[Barelli] Part of the resources the government will receive from the fiscal reform will be for that because that is where it will generate the most. We must not forget that in 1966-67 we overcame a recession thanks to a large housing fund. There are more resources that also may be activated. Savings accounts are also meant for housing plans, but not all the banks are applying that money to housing; they are applying it to the old financial carousel. There is money for construction as long as it is all channeled to the construction of housing and used only for that.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Are you a minister for the PT?

[Barelli] I am not an official PT member.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Perhaps the PT may feel a bit at stake on account of your becoming a minister.

[Barelli] I agree with our leader Pedro Simon [Brazilian Democratic Movement Party senator for Rio Grande do Sul and government leader in the Senate]: If a reshuffle is made, Aloizio Mercadante [PT deputy for Sao Paulo] and Espiridiao Amin [Social Democratic Party senator for Santa Catarina] should join the administration. They must continue maintaining this unity we have. An important thing in the Itamar administration is that we are working on a team. There is no super minister or favorite here; things are always decided together. It is a quality of this government. Beside this, it is not Itamar's intention to make a one-party government.

[ISTOE SENHOR] There has always been a certain expectation for the moment when someone identified with or who represented the workers would occupy the Labor Ministry. For whom are you, whose past is linked to the labor movement, administering?

[Barelli] I only accepted this ministry because this government's position is not to mind just the economic problem, but all the matters that affect the economic field. A Labor Ministry that does not participate in the decisions is not a real ministry. Being a labor minister makes sense only if labor is an important function of the Republic. This is important in this administration. What I consider most challenging is the issue of modernizing labor- capital relations, centered around the campaign for collective labor negotiations.

[ISTOE SENHOR] What is the basic difference between the current collective labor negotiations?

[Barelli] I always say that we are seeking a superior instrument with the collective labor negotiations. Fifty years ago, while Brazil was attaining the CLT [Consolidated Labor Laws], the rest of the countries already were moving toward collective labor negotiations. That is what exists in all developed countries; it is a different form of relations between workers and companies.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Is that made by labor categories?

[Barelli] There are three big collective labor negotiations models, a national contract that then has ramifications and may be made by each company.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Would it be made through the labor centrals?

[Barelli] That represents some kind of national organization. There is another model made up of categories. This means that, for example, the entire metalworks sector has its own contract, and its own specific sections also will have their specific contracts. This is an Italian model.

[ISTOE SENHOR] Evidently, Sao Bernardo [large industrial city] has a weight that will allow it to attain some kind of agreement that "Cabrobo do Norte" [small backward northern city] would not have.

[Barelli] It would not. But look, Sao Bernardo has a weight that has changed the collective labor negotiations of the whole metalworks sector in Brazil. If you take the labor unions of Manaus, Porto Alegre, or Recife as an example, their contracts contain practically the same

terms because they are informed about each other. Sao Bernardo has made progress and other unions made progress because there is this specific contract with Autolatina, Volkswagen, Ford, or Mercedes Benz. From the general contract they went to more specific contracts.

There is yet another model of collective labor negotiations, which is one contract for each company, which is the American model. Labor contracts in the United States are made by the company, and it is in the car industry that this model has developed the most.

[ISTOE SENHOR] The CNI has a document clearly stating that the ideal would be to not to have any rule at all, but free labor negotiations. During the authoritarian stage of this country, that was the vindication of the labor movement. What do you think of this?

[Barelli] Free labor negotiations also have been a banner of the labor movement against the dictatorship. We did not want—and I even participated in that whole movement—a salary policy that would immobilize all the labor unions because the salary policy is normally a tight-fisted policy. The idea then was to have the freedom to hire according to the force of each labor category and that was what we did. The strike staged in 1978 by the Scania factory workers in the ABC [Santo Amaro, Sao Bernardo, and Sao Caetano] region in Sao Paulo State was a strike to get rid of the old model and at least make the businessmen from the large multinational companies be the first ones not to comply with the Brazilian law, therefore to disobey it, and make them sign labor contracts in noncompliance with the salary policy. It was a great triumph.

[ISTOE SENHOR] But businessmen currently claim possession of the banner of free negotiations. Is this legitimate?

[Barelli] I always use this expression when I meet with businessmen: "I am resuming a talk that has been suspended." Because when eight major businessmen issued a manifesto in 1977, in which they addressed the issue of democratization—redistribution of income and changes in capital-labor relations—they paved the way for a great pact, because they were really identifying themselves with an occasion that demanded democracy and other types of capital-labor relations. It was very easy to talk with businessmen in 1978, 1979, and 1980 because they had commitments, and they knew that difficulties were not convenient for a developing industry or one that sought to grow.

[ISTOE SENHOR] During a meeting of prefects from the capitals nearly a month ago, you criticized leftists' capacity to administrate, to resolve problems, and so forth. You did so after Luiza Erundina was defeated in Sao Paulo. Can this diagnosis be regarded as valid after this event in Sao Paulo?

[Barelli] I am working on a Unicamp [Campinas State University] project known as Government's School. And one of the project's objectives is to work on the so-called capacity to govern. I was quoted as saying that "the left has no capacity to govern," or something like that. And this is a great truth because people learn to govern by exerting power. On very few occasions has the left taken power, such as the case with Erundina. Then one learns to govern by exerting power. In the case of the PT prefects, irrespective of the names, the difficulty appeared as a result of the lack of a major reflection, more knowledge on the way to make decisions, and on the capacity and methods to govern—and if you belong to the left, you have to resort to the democratic system. You have to build all this during your term in office. A ruler himself deteriorates during his four-year term in office, and when he is learning to govern he already is losing the upcoming election.

Army Offers To Help Implement Social Projects

PY1801203993 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Jan 93 p 5

[Article by Leise Taveira and Eduardo Trece]

[Excerpt] Brasilia—After a group of representatives from the main private enterprises decided to voice their support for President Itamar Franco and suggest measures to fight misery in Brazil, the Army minister also offered to help the government in this task. According to the Army Social Communication Center (Cecomsex), this force, which has squads stationed throughout the country in many neglected areas, is one of the state's main links with the people and is capable of increasing its participation in health, sanitation, housing, and education programs.

According to Cecomsex, the Army traditionally has given direct services to small communities in the interior, which could be increased if it is provided the necessary materials. Cecomsex added that the Army frequently signs agreements for the execution of social works with municipalities and state governments.

Cecomsex added that the cost of the services the Army gives communities is insignificant because labor is always free because it is done by soldiers or Army officers themselves.

Planning and Finance Minister Paulo Haddad and Roberto Freire, government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, believe that no government has ever enjoyed so much political and popular support to implement its social policy.

While the government negotiates the approval of the fiscal adjustment in Congress to obtain resources amounting to approximately $12 billion this year, Itamar has ordered his aides to outline social projects and expedite the drafting of programs. The Social Welfare Ministry wants to aid 1.1 million families, which will earn up to three minimum salaries by 1994, with urban development projects for shantytowns, the creation of job opportunities, and financing the purchase of property and the construction of cheap houses. [passage omitted]

Itamaraty Seeks Information on Students in Iraq

PY1801223593 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2100 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] Itamaraty Palace asked Iraqi Ambassador Qays Tawfiq al-Mukhtar today for information on the whereabouts of two Brazilian students who allegedly arrived in Iraq on 13 January.

(Mauro Bianco), 28, and (Gislande Caricia), 19, travelled to Baghdad to participate in an international festival of support for the Iraqi people and students.

The Iraqi ambassador promised to obtain information on the students in 24 hours.

According to Itamaraty, they are the only Brazilian citizens who remain in Iraq.

Chile

Air Force Chief Opposes Organizational Bill

PY1501162193 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Report by Javier Galaz from the Congress building in Valparaiso]

[Text] General Ramon Vega, the Air Force commander in chief, appeared before the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee today to express the objection of the Air Force to the bill submitted by the government whereby the president of the Republic would once again decide on the promotion and retirement of Armed Forces officers.

Gen. Vega stated that he shared the apprehension of the Army and Navy commanders in chief about this initiative. Apart from the legal arguments contending that the proposed modification is inadequate because it seeks to strip the Armed Forces of its role as custodian of the institutional system, as vested in the Armed Forces under the 1980 Constitution, Gen. Vega explained the practical reasons why it is not advisable to reform the Armed Forces Organizational Law. Vega said that this law has enabled the Chilean Air Force to maintain its professionalism and improve its technical capability. He added that the proposed change is not rejected for lack of trust in civilian authorities.

[Begin Vega recording] No, it is by no means a lack of trust. It goes without saying that one should not distrust the president of the Republic. I believe there is mutual respect and great confidence in the president. I believe the law should not be changed because it currently meets the demands of the Chilean Air Force. [end recording]

Commenting upon the concern voiced by the Army and Navy commanders over a possible politicizing of the Armed Forces, Gen. Vega conceded that the reform proposed by the government might weaken the strength of the Armed Forces command structure.

[Begin Vega recording] I will not introduce substantial changes on this issue. I also suggest that we avoid any external influence on the command structure which has been technically selected and analytically led and trained throughout its professional life. We must maintain, without changing anything, the basis of the Armed Forces, namely the command structure and military discipline. [end recording]

General Rodolfo Stange, the Carabineros director general, will brief the Chamber of Deputies Defense Committee in March on the proposed Armed Forces and Carabineros Organizational Law reform.

Aylwin Refutes Pinochet on Independence of Armed Forces

PY1501175793 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] No president of the Republic would be so foolish as to besmirch his function as supreme commander of the nation and of the Armed Forces by using the Armed Forces for selfish purposes or by politicizing them.

President Patricio Aylwin, addressing the Chamber of Deputies, thus refuted comments by Army Commander General Augusto Pinochet on the convenience of the military institutions being independent.

[Begin Aylwin recording] By express mandate of our Constitution, the Armed Forces are subordinated to the National Defense Ministry and, consequently, to the president of the Republic. This does not mean that the Armed Forces are politicized. No president of the Republic would be so foolish as to besmirch his function as supreme commander of the nation and of the Armed of Forces by using them for selfish purposes, by trying to distract them from their functions, or by politicizing them. To do this would mean betraying the presidency of the Republic, not just my presidency but that of anyone who may hold this post. [end recording]

President Aylwin raised this issue during a ceremony of respect for Radomiro Tomic, the late vice president of the Republic and outstanding personality, on the first anniversary of his death.

After referring to the strength of Tomic's character and political ideals, which even led him to turn down opportunities for personal enhancement, Aylwin referred to the Coalition of Parties for Democracy, its challenges, and prospects. He said the only task of the coalition is to continue to provide Chile with governments. For this he said the coalition member parties must strengthen their common identity by offering Chile a program, a list of congressional candidates, and a single presidential hopeful for the upcoming elections. Aylwin added that Chile has good prospects if coalition member countries are able meet this challenge.

[Begin Aylwin recording] If the coalition member countries are capable of meeting these challenges and if we

can keep up with historic developments, we will undoubtedly be successful. Modestly speaking, I think we are going to be successful, and the prospects of the coalition are good. Above all, they will be good for Chile, for the Chilean people, because I honestly think we have done things properly. I think we enjoy the confidence of the great majority of the Chilean people. [end recording]

The ceremony was attended to by Tomic's widow, Olaya Errazuriz, his children, the presidents of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate, ministers of state, politicians, and many militants and members of the Christian Democratic Party.

MIDA Elects Pizarro as Presidential Candidate

PY1801135493 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Eugenio Pizarro, a diocesan priest, won the nomination as presidential candidate for the Allendist Leftist Democratic Movement, MIDA, in a close contest with the other presidential hopeful, Gladys Marin. After the MIDA executive board officially announced his candidacy, Pizarro stated that he will be the standard-bearer for the poor and forsaken Chileans. [passage omitted]

Key Dates Noted in General Election Process

PY1601213293 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 6 Jan 93 p 9

[Excerpts] The general elections that will be held next 11 December are already prompting voters to register.

Juan Zegers, chief of the Metropolitan Electoral Service Unit, told LA TERCERA that "a considerable number of the public" have registered in December 1992 and so far in January. He said that the service is ready to receive all those who want to register to vote within the terms established by the law. [passage omitted]

Key Dates

May:
13—The deadline for parties to send copies of their registration lists to the Electoral Service is 0000; this is also the deadline for politicians who want to run as independent candidates to resign from their parties.
15—The electoral registry period begins, and all election registry offices will remain open from 0900.

June:
12—The deadline for all politicians who want to run as independent presidential candidates to resign from their parties is 0000. [as published]

July:
14—The deadline for officially declaring electoral pacts and for declaring the names of candidates for deputies and senators is 0000.
24—Deadline for the director of the Electoral Service to accept or reject nominations.

August:
12—Last day for registering to vote.
13—The deadline for proclaiming candidates for president of the Republic expires at 0000. The deadline for the Electoral Service director to accept or reject the candidates also expires.

September:
12—The Electoral Service director announces the number of voting stations and the voting tables which correspond to each one of them.

October:
1—Publication of the characteristics of the official ballots for the presidential, senate, and deputy elections.
27—Regional electoral boards will have until 1400 to select, by drawing, the officials members of the balloting tables and establish the voting stations.

November:
1—The president of the Republic designates the respective garrison or post commanders [jefes de plaza].
6—The deadline for publication of the names of voting stations, delegates, and electoral board and balloting table officials for each voting station expires. The deadline for informing delegates and officials of their participation in the elections also expires.
11—Full-scale election campaign begins throughout all media.

December:
4—Polling booth overseers are duly constituted at 1400.
6—Electoral registers are published.
8—Armed Forces and Carabineros personnel launch operations to maintain law and order.
8—Election campaign closes at 0000.
11—Election day. Polling stations open at 0600. Polling booth overseers arrive at polling stations at 0700. Ballots can be cast as of 0800.
12—Boards in charge of counting the votes are established.
17—Preliminary voting results are made known by the aforementioned vote counting boards.
21—The deadline for filing complaints before the respective criminal judges expires. The Electoral Court is convened at 1000 to hear the election results and settle complaints or make corrections.

January 1994:
20—The deadline for finishing the vote count for president of the Republic.

February:
4—Last date for holding possible new presidential elections.

March:
2—Last date for finishing the the vote count in the new presidential elections, and for proclamations and announcements.

Three Mapu-Lautaro Members Charged With Crimes

PY1601013793 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Imagen Internacional in Spanish 2330 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] The Investigative Police has placed three Mapu-Lautaro [United Popular Action Movement-Lautaro Faction] members at the disposal of the courts. They are charged with having performed some 20 holdups and murdering a Carabinero policemen. Two of the arrested subversives are mercenaries.

The three were identified as Fernando Gonzalez Olivares, 21; his wife Gisella Palsen Figueroa, 20; and Hector Madoro Salinas, 26. According to the police, the Mapu-Lautaro movement paid the two men salaries ranging from 30,000 to 50,000 pesos, plus the amount for their rents. The movement also paid Gonzalez Olivares a 10,000 peso Christmas bonus.

The Investigative Police reported that the arrested terrorists had performed more than 20 crimes, including bomb attacks, theft, and armed holdups yielding more than 70 million pesos. Among the holdups, we can mention two simultaneous attacks at the end of December on bank offices at the corner of (Moron Montt) and 11 September Streets in Providencia District. They were also involved in a clash with Carabineros on 1 January 1993 in Vitacura District, where Corporal Isaias Baez was killed. The two criminals managed to escape police by taking as hostage the owner of the house in which they had taken refuge.

Murder of Journalist Linked to Arms Trafficking

PY1601190593 Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish 5 Jan 93 p C7

[Excerpt] Jorge Trivino, attorney for the plaintiff in the case of the murder of British journalist Jonathan Moyle, reaffirmed on 4 January that this crime was directly connected with illegal weapons trafficking.

Arriving from Great Britain, where he had stayed for almost three weeks, Trivino said that in that country it is believed that "Moyle was assassinated because of his investigations into illegal weapons trafficking and the strictly confidential information that had come into his hands." [passage omitted]

Catholic Church Gives Protection to Refugees

PY1701202893

[Editorial Report] Santiago EL MERCURIO in Spanish on 7 January, pages A1 and A11, reports that the Chilean Catholic Church has given protection to 71 foreign refugees in coordination with the UN high commissioner for refugees through an agreement signed on 13 November 1992. The refugees include two families from Bosnia-Hercegovina, five Iraqis, six Russians, one Cuban, and 52 Peruvians.

Colombia

Cartel Orders Prosecutor General Assassination

PA1401190993 Paris AFP in Spanish 1652 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Santa Fe de Bogota, 14 Jan (AFP)—A criminal plan drafted by the Medellin Cartel, led by drug trafficker Pablo Escobar, to kill Colombian Prosecutor General Gustavo De Greiff was discovered by state security forces, Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO reported on 14 January.

"The order to attack the Prosecutor General reportedly came after he disregarded the "recommendations" made by an alleged envoy of Pablo Escobar, who demanded that De Greiff suspend all legal actions against the organization," the newspaper reported.

The newspaper reported that the possibility of "an imminent incursion" against the prosecutor was confirmed by sources from the Prosecutor General's Office and the Search Bloc [Bloque de Busqueda], which is formed by members of the Army and the police in charge of searching for the criminal leader. In a letter, Escobar threatened to place a 10-ton bomb loaded with dynamite in De Greiff's offices.

According to EL TIEMPO, after the plan against De Greiff was revealed, security forces, the military commands, and the police have evaluated the situation and decided to modify the surveillance and protection system of the top official, who has become Escobar's number one enemy. [passage omitted]

According to EL TIEMPO, the terrorist plan would be implemented by a commando unit of at least 18 gunmen, divided into three groups, who reportedly would arrive in Santa Fe de Bogota from Medellin.

The newspaper stated that a man known as "Chunca," whose composite sketch is currently being drafted based on the testimony of a cartel deserter with access to the security forces, would be in charge of the operation.

The newspaper even reported that the terrorists are studying two options: either placing a car bomb in the path of the prosecutor general's motorcade or hiring a group of snipers.

De Greiff has publicly told journalists that he is not afraid of the narcoterrorists' attempts to kill him.

Escobar Announces Creation of Rebel Group

PA1801180793 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1633 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The country was surprised on the morning of 18 January by yet another handwritten letter by Pablo Escobar Gaviria. This threatening letter is addressed to the prosecutor general and is aimed at publicly announcing that he will rule out the juridical struggle to

launch an armed struggle through a group termed Rebel Antioquia [Antioquia Rebelde].

Escobar did not rule out the possibility of talks, but he insisted that if they takes place, it will be within the same conditions granted to guerrilla groups.

What is Escobar seeking with this new strategy? Here is the analysis:

For some analysts, the letters by Pablo Escobar Gaviria to the Prosecutor's Office are basically aimed at giving a political nature to the crimes for which he is being processed. Under that plan, the head of the Medellin Cartel would seek to obtain the benefits received by demobilized guerrilla groups, such as the M-19 [19 April Movement], the Quintin Lame Movement, and the PRT [Revolutionary Workers Party].

However, the provision established in the Penal Code and those adopted by the government under the state of emergency clearly establish that there are marked differences between political and common crimes. The political crimes are defined as those that affect the institutional or juridical order of a country, such as the case of sedition and rebellion. These actions are subject to amnesty processes that, at any given time, may grant pardons for committing such crimes.

Common crimes are very different. They are aimed at persons who have no relation to the state or institutions, such as the terrorist attacks, in which more than 1,000 civilians have been killed. Common crimes also include drug trafficking and murder of journalists or government workers.

For the Prosecutor General's Office, it is clear that the criminal processes against Pablo Escobar Gaviria will continue. Additionally, in case of talks for the surrender of the Medellin drug lord to authorities, he will never be treated juridically as a guerrilla.

Ministers Reject Escobar Letter

PA1901004493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] In Santa Fe de Bogota, the national government has rejected Pablo Escobar's demands and his announcement that he will become a guerrilla leader. The official response was expressed by Defense Minister Rafael Pardo Rueda.

[Begin Pardo recording] Escobar's letter is no more than an attempt to divert people's attention and cover up crimes that Escobar committed before he turned himself in, during his time in prison, and after his escape. Escobar is trying to disguise his illegal activities by using phony political banners as a shield for common crimes and a criminal mentality. He wants to deceive the public to obtain amnesty and forgiveness of his crimes. This, of course, is politically, juridically, and morally unacceptable to Colombian society and the Colombian Government. [end recording]

Government Minister Fabio Villegas rejected Pablo Escobar's claim that the struggle against drug trafficking is biased. Jose Luis Ramirez spoke with the minister.

[Begin recording] [Ramirez] Good evening, we are in the office of Government Minister Fabio Villegas Ramirez to ask him about the government's reaction to Pablo Escobar's communique and demands.

[Villegas] We believe this is a new act of deceit by the criminal narcoterrorist organizations that are now trying to present themselves to the country as political organizations, so as to cover up their lengthy history of crime during which they have inflicted truly atrocious crimes on all the Colombian people.

We cannot attempt, in no way are we going to allow these criminal terrorist organizations to act now in political robes for the purpose of seeking juridical benefits. At no time would we consider the possibility of allowing organizations of this type to be eligible for any pardon, amnesty, or any other legal benefit that might be granted for political crimes.

[Ramirez] If Pablo Escobar decides to surrender in the next few hours or days, what would the government's position be?

[Villegas] The government clearly has promoted a policy of surrender to the courts that is being administered by the Prosecutor General's Office. It applies equally to all persons who are outside the law. The government has expressed its interest in and willingness to extend its full support to the Prosecutor General's Office, which is using this recourse of a special surrender policy to strengthen the country's legal institutions.

[Ramirez] This has been the national government's reaction to the letter and demands made by Pablo Escobar Gaviria. This is all the information available at this time at the Government Ministry. [end recording]

Police Reportedly Kill Cartel Lieutenant

PA1701225493 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Report by Lida Maria Banegas in Medellin]

[Text] On 16 January the police elite corps killed a man who has been tentatively identified as Victor Giovanni Granada, alias El Zarco. The action occurred close to Medellin's bull fighting arena, located in the western area of the city. El Zarco was reportedly a second lieutenant in the Medellin Cartel and has been accused of participating in the Moncada and Galeano brothers' kidnapping and murder; the murder of a Judicial Police and Investigations Directorate intelligence officer; setting up road blocks around Las Palmas with other Pablo Escobar men; and the murder of several policemen.

Furthermore, policeman Guillermo Leon Molina Toro and Private Leonardo Giral Ruiz were killed in separate incidents on 16 January in Medellin. Giral Ruiz had

arrived two hours before from Santa Fe de Bogota, where he had received medical care for three months. On 17 January his body will be transferred to his hometown in Guatica, Risalda Department.

Arrest Three Cali Cartel Members

PA1801201593 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1630 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] According to the police, the Cali Cartel was dealt another harsh blow within the framework of the international Operation Green Ice. The police have reported the arrests of Miguel Antonio Aljure, Gonzalo Canal, and Fausto Malcone, alleged members of the criminal organization. They also seized documents revealing the connections between cocaine distributors and money launderers. The arrested men were remanded to a Valle del Cauca public prosecutor.

Navarro Wolff Discusses Presidential Candidacy

PA1601132193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 2300 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report by Carlos Julio Bethancourt]

[Text] Antonio Navarro Wolff has announced his presidential candidacy. On 15 January he clearly outlined his political plans for 1994, and he criticized President Cesar Gaviria for the appointment of a new government minister.

Navarro Wolff has a clear concept of the future. That is why he is making preparations, although he knows things will not be easy because of sectarianism and opposition. He has clearly defined the idea that this country cannot be ruled by a single party and, the way things look, the number of candidates in the electoral race that has just begun will make the struggle open and direct.

[Begin Navarro Wolff recording] Apparently, a fourth party has emerged in Colombia, Gavirism, judging from the signs. It has ministers, presidential candidates or presidential hopefuls, and a president and party leader, of course. [end recording]

He says we must watch the new government minister and see if he is impartial. If not, the censure vote can be used. Navarro Wolff is calm and secure despite all this. He will take his chances with a coalition that is still being analyzed and a multiparty strategy that will generate decisions and changes. The goal, with or without him as a candidate, is the presidency in 1994.

[Begin recording] [Bethancourt] Will you be the candidate?

[Navarro Wolff] It depends. It depends on the circumstances, decisions, procedures, and popular opinion, if necessary. The citizens definitely decides. [end recording]

His plans clearly take his opponents into consideration. [Begin Navarro Wolff recording] They are all important and respectable. Some of them endorse influence peddling, others want to renew Colombia. I support the latter. [end recording]

This is how Antonio Navarro sees the future, with an alliance that represents a political turning point. He has realized there is strength in unity, even though some believe it is still too early to tell.

AD/M-19 Offers Reward for Reporting Corruption

PA1801215693 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] The 19 April Movement Democratic Alliance [AD/M-19] has copied the government campaign. Through an advertisement it will ask bounty hunters to report corruption.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] We will defeat it by reporting it. These are acts of corruption. Let us stop it by reporting corrupt officials. There will be a reward of 1 million pesos for documents and testimony that make it possible to begin criminal suits against ministers, managers of decentralized entities, governors, and mayors of capital cities. With your information Colombia wins, and you win. You set the conditions to get the reward.

[Reporter Sandra Vergara] With this advertisement, the AD/M-19 seeks to wage war on corrupt officials through the Citizens Prosecutor's Office [Fiscalia Ciudadana], which the group created. Anyone reporting someone, from a minister to a mayor, regardless of his political party, will receive a reward of 1 millions pesos, donated by private companies that want to unmask dishonest officials.

[Former AD/M-19 member Otty Patino] If someone launches a campaign, he has to accept the consequences. We think this must be done in a serious and substantiated manner, and not simply be the start of a witch hunt.

[Vergara] This advertisement will be broadcast on television starting next week and will be paid for by the AD/M-19. According to the group's leaders, the political strategy must yield the same results as the government campaign to capture drug traffickers and guerrillas. [end recording]

Paraguay

Public Official Questions U.S. Role

PY1501144393 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 15 Jan 93 p 6

["Paid advertisement" entitled: "To You, Ambassador Glassman," by public official Roberto Torres, Identity No. 398.955]

[Text] I am overwhelmingly surprised by the consequences of the LATEST INTERNAL ELECTIONS OF THE COLORADO PARTY and by the obvious partiality of

statesmen, some military officers, and top-level state officials who have in no way concealed their complicity in the use of the state apparatus (which is financed by all inhabitants of this country without political discrimination) to proclaim a given list of candidates as the winner and to reverse the results of the ballot boxes.

It is irritating, symptomatic, shameful, offensive, treacherous, and gruesome that after two weeks (18 days) the 430,000 votes have not been officially counted, suspiciously concealing the result, simply because the SHERIF'S HORSE [the government-supported candidate] was not the winner.

But I am even more surprised by the passiveness and silence of your embassy, the embassy of the country which boasts to be the most democratic nation on earth.

I am wondering if the embassy of the United States of North America is maybe involved in this Machiavellian PROCESS; and if not, I ask: What has it done so far? Could it be that it is only concerned with the idea of a coup with weapons in which people are threatened?

You, Ambassador Glassman, have known perfectly well for several days who is the winning candidate of the Colorado Party internal elections. The media have said it; the opinion and exit polls confirmed it. Do you know, Ambassador, that the command center of Ticket No. 2 [Wasmosy-Seifart], just a few blocks from your embassy, by 2100 on the day of the elections, was empty, deserted, uninhabited, with the windows shattered, and abandoned following the overwhelming defeat imposed on it in said elections? At the other post, the winner's command center, there was bustle, joy, and happiness over the victory of a long-suffering, stoic, and courageous people who, with their leaders ARGANA-YBANEZ defeated an entire apparatus run by the executive branch and a small but arrogant group of businessmen.

We who believe in democracy, cannot understand why it takes so long for our party's Electoral Court to release a truthful result, especially in these days of computers and cybernetics.

Through these events, our incipient Paraguayan democracy has suffered a hard blow and is again in a distressing state of comma, awaiting only to be certified dead. If the internal elections of a party are handled in such manner, we can easily foresee the great fraud that will take place in the general elections slated for May.

Finally, what do you, as ambassador of the United States, think? What decision will your country make on the matter? We can hardly believe that a country like yours, which from the days of Abraham Lincoln to the days of Clinton has fought to defend democracy, will be a mere spectator and much less an accomplice to such a violation of the people's sovereign will.

Editorial Views U.S. Ambassador Support

PY1601030593 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 Jan 93 p 12

[Editorial: "It Is Ridiculous To Think of a Disruption of the Democratic Process"]

[Text] The United States has committed itself to supporting democracy in Paraguay. U.S. Ambassador Jon Glassman has once again reiterated this commitment, which he had previously made in a public statement on 2 January when matters took a critical turn during the Colorado Party primaries. This means that should the current democratic process be stopped by force or by a coup d'etat, the United States would withdraw all its support for our country. Besides, the ambassador himself reiterated that should the transition to democracy be abruptly interrupted, the international community would also take a similar stance; that is, it would refuse to cooperate with Paraguay.

The U.S. ambassador's assertion should not be interpreted as a breach of the rules governing political neutrality, but rather as a warning about the imperative need to maintain the rule of law and respect the Constitution, which are the only guarantees citizens have to ensure that the legitimate path to democracy will not be forsaken.

A statement such as this has a special meaning in light of persistent rumors of an abrupt, forceful disruption of the transition process through the use of weapons. This does not and should not meet with the least approval by Paraguay's public opinion. Even though the internal problems of the Colorado Party are rather serious—as no conciliatory formulas or expeditious alternatives for reaching agreement have so far been found—it seems quite inappropriate to think about a violent disruptive action, because the government and the Armed Forces have reaffirmed their unswerving "will to consolidate the political process" and to abide by the will of the people at the polls.

The government's conviction, as well as its statement, render the rumors of a coup d'etat or self-inflicted coup empty of meaning. Such rumors seem to originate in political sectors that have no possibility whatsoever of winning at the polls, and therefore seek to encourage confusion and goad others into resorting to violence. Notwithstanding the fact that the Colorado Party is going through a critical period, nobody could claim that the active participation of members of the Armed Forces in electoral campaigns—which understandably causes concern among citizens—is beneficial for the country or the democratic system.

It is quite appropriate, then, to view as relevant the American diplomat's insistence concerning the condemnation of any attempt to thwart our transition to democracy, so dearly achieved in February 1989, with the pledge to round off the transition and democratic stability. Crises must be weathered within the framework of duly constituted authorities, and it is of paramount

importance that the Colorado Party leadership, as well as that of other political parties, realize once and for all how things now stand.

It has rightly been said that political definitions must be crystal clear, especially so on the eve of the May elections, which will constitute an excellent final examination for the transition. This transition, despite being characterized by good and bad, cannot alter its course or excuse itself before attaining the much sought after political and social stability. We must discard ambiguous attitudes and shady adventures that might frustrate the path toward consolidating a steady and stable democracy.

Editorial Cites 'Diplomatic Jargon'

PY1801191393 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 18 Jan 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Diplomatic Jargon"]

[Text] At this point no one doubts that the notorious New Year's coup plot was in fact under way when the U. S. Embassy communique halted it. Although the communique provoked some remarks reflecting the usual line of patriotic irritation over "an act of interference in our domestic affairs," it elicited a sigh of relief from most people. Whether it was an act of interference or not, the communique was instrumental in averting an ominous event, and many people thought it worthwhile "just to turn a blind eye" to it because to do so this time was beneficial to saving democracy in Paraguay. Furthermore, everyone will ultimately accept the high degree of flexibility the concept of sovereignty has acquired not only in our country, but worldwide. After all, as President Rodriguez said, "Paraguay is not an island."

Now, in subsequent remarks, the cautious U.S. diplomat soothed the irked nationalists by making the following statement: "I do not know if it halted a coup or not." He was thus referring to the U.S. communique on the coup rumors. He indicated that one thing had nothing to do with the other. Thus, one has to make an effort to believe him and to thank him again for this favor he unwittingly did for us.

He continues to do us favors because in his remarks last week he made it quite clear that every attempt at departing from the democratic process will result in the suspension of cooperation by the United States and, consequently, by Japan and the other powers or league of powers that have openly assumed the role of sponsors of democracy worldwide. They have exercised their sponsoring role by exerting economic pressures on those who are either reluctant or rebellious because the gloomy prospect of losing this cooperation would mean losing the flow of resources. This, for a country like ours—which produces only a third of its needs—would be something like the Final Judgment.

The communique has not met all the conditions required to become an act of foreign interference in the old sense of the term. It was like telling us that we are entitled to do as we please, even to set our country on fire, but making clear that if this action were inconsistent with the democratic model it would be pointless for them to continue giving us any cooperation. An unavoidable conclusion here is that today the leading powers are good friends of those who behave and that if one country misbehaves, it will not be punished through actions such as a landing by the Marines, but through omission, that is, by withdrawing their friendship and discontinuing their aid and assistance.

It has thus been confirmed in diplomatic jargon that "Paraguay is not an island." It is not an island because neither its distant location, its landlocked status, the lack of communications, nor the lack of international awareness of what is happening here will make Paraguay impervious to the historical, ethical, and political trends that currently are prevailing worldwide. The leading powers are sponsoring democracy, and those of us living in peripheral regions have no alternative but to behave like dedicated students. This may have been an act of interference, although a minor one, but we should find consolation in the fact that it has prevented us from revisiting our century-old cyclical habit of mercilessly destroying each other and of being highly inclined to using violence to solve our problems.

This is how the modern world appears to be organized and even managed. The austere isolationism of Rodriguez de Francia, the unparalleled heroism of Marshal Lopez, as well as the merry military adventures of Albino Jara and Jose Gill, belong in the glorious past. "Revolutions" such as those of 1904, 1922, or 1947 are unthinkable today. Paraguay has joined the modern world and modernity imposes golden rules such as respect, democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and international agreements. All of these rules completely preclude the revival of messianism, a factor that has brought us so much pain and backwardness. Messianism is an illusion that can bring insanity, first to a man and then to a country. In his diplomatic jargon, the U.S. ambassador responded to such illusions (and to those believing in it as well) with a two-letter answer: No.

Argana Proposes Meeting on Party Crisis

PY1901020893 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 2308 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Announcement by Colorado Party presidential candidate Luis Maria Argana from his headquarters in Asuncion—live]

[Text] Fellow party members, I am now going to read an open letter from the Colorado Party Reconciliation Movement to all fellow partisans of all internal movements that participated in the 27 December 1992 elections. This proposal seeks to institutionalize the Colorado Party electoral process and solve the temporary electoral crisis we are experiencing.

The following is the letter's content:

Moved by the highest and most noble ideals and inspired in the desire for freedom and democracy that have always steered the actions of our glorious party, in an attempt to lift the stagnation affecting the vote count and the ruling on the results of the Colorado Party internal elections that could bring the party to the point of not having any candidates for the 9 March elections, we take the liberty to publicly call for a fraternal, Paraguayan, Colorado, and democratic dialogue with the remaining internal Colorado Party movements.

Taking into account that the Colorado Party internal electoral court is not leaderless, that it still exists because only four members have resigned, thus leaving it with six members—that is chief and alternate members, which does not mean it is leaderless. Consequently, the electoral court still exists and enjoys all its functions, authority, and jurisdiction because the only thing that restraint orders or challenges do is prevent those electoral court members from passing judgment on the specific cases in which they are involved.

Therefore, legally speaking, the partisan electoral court still exists. Taking this into account, we wish to make the following proposal to the remaining internal movements in an attempt to reorganize the partisan Electoral Board and thus solve the crisis we are experiencing by once again institutionalizing, in a legal manner, the appropriate body to count the votes and make a ruling on the election results:

1. All the movements that participated in the 27 December 1992 elections must commit themselves to withdraw and annul all writs of restraint and ask the Electoral Board members who have disqualified themselves to withdraw their decision. This procedure does not include the board members who resigned because their resignations have been undeclinable and, therefore, they have not shown any determination or political will to tackle and solve the electoral partisan crisis for which they are responsible, to a great extent, for not having counted the votes and announced the election results with the speed this political event required, thus prompting a serious and truly conflictive situation.

2. Once we have thus reorganized the board with the remaining chief and alternate members incorporated in the corresponding order, all movements must accept the vote count being resumed immediately—without any interruptions, writs of restraint, or other resources—and the ruling of the results of the elections held on 27 December 1992 as established in Articles No. 240 and the following ones of the Electoral Code.

3. In order to discuss these proposals, we take the liberty to summon, with a highly democratic and Colorado spirit, all movements that participated in the 27 December 1992 elections to a dialogue, of the highest level, to be held on 20 January at 2000 [2300 GMT] at the Hotel Guarani. If possible, we request the presence of the candidates for president and vice president for each ticket, as well as the press and propaganda representatives and/or general coordinator for each ticket, in order to discuss this proposal for a peaceful and legal solution to this serious electoral controversy, in order to be able to discuss this matter with people who have decisionmaking power within their respective movement, regardless of the consultations they obviously will have to make.

We strongly believe that this proposal will help us resume the institutional democratic process that was, unfortunately, temporarily interrupted, because we believe in the patriotic and Colorado spirit of the remaining movements' members who will attend the meeting designed to find a peaceful, democratic, and legal solution to this crisis. With no other purpose in mind but the search for the reconciliation of Colorado Party members that will make national reconciliation possible, we greet our fellow partisans of the internal Colorado movements with a strong republican embrace. Thank you very much. [applause]

Judge Orders Arrest of Alfredo Stroessner

PY1601010693 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 Jan 93 p 8

[Excerpts] Within the framework of the inquiry into the death of brothers Benjamin and Rodolfo Ramirez Villalba, which occurred at Investigative Police headquarters in 1976, Judge Nelson Mara this morning added more charges to the inquiry against ousted dictator Alfredo Stroessner. He also ordered his arrest and the placement of a 150 million guarani embargo on his assets. A similar decision was made against General Benito Guanes Serrano, who is charged with participating in the same crime. This measure adopted by the judge is the first step toward requesting Stroessner's extradition from Brazil for trial in Paraguay. According to judicial branch sources, the extradition will allegedly be requested within the next few weeks. [passage omitted]

Guanes Serrano's Arrest

Within the framework of the same inquiry, and at the request of Prosecutor Guido Melgarejo, the judge ordered the arrest of Gen. Benito Guanes Serrano, head of military intelligence during Stroessner's dictatorship, and the placement of a 50 million guarani embargo on his properties.

Guanes Serrano is charged with planning and implementing a repressive campaign against opponents of the dictatorship during the 1970's, as was learned from Investigative Police documents found at a police station in the town of Lambare. [passage omitted]

Peru

Fujimori on Ecuador, Wages, Support Group

PA1601184093 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jan 93

[News conference by President Alberto Fujimori with unidentified reporters; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Fujimori] My visit to the Bay of Caraquez, [Ecuador] was strictly a family affair. We discussed bilateral relations. I was very clear, totally clear, at that meeting. Our stand remains unchanged. It is the same one I referred to at the Ecuadoran Congress in early 1993. There is absolutely no doubt about that. We are firmly maintaining our position.

[Reporter] Ecuador (?wants) a sovereign port in the Amazon [words indistinct]?

[Fujimori] I repeat, our stand remains unchanged: Peru could grant them a free port in an appropriate place, as was proposed earlier this year.

[Reporter] The labor minister [word indistinct] 320 soles minimum salary. How do you view this within the framework of your economic policy? Will there be a salary increase?

[Fujimori] No, this is a proposal by the General Confederation of Peruvian Workers and not by Labor Minister Antonioli.

[Reporter] Was an increase in wages and salaries included the 1993 budget?

[Fujimori] Of course, there is a financial reserve to compensate for the loss in purchasing power caused by inflation. This was indeed reflected properly in the budget. We cannot go beyond these budgetary constraints.

[Reporter] President, will the conflict in the [Persian] gulf delay the establishment of the second support group?

[Fujimori] As before, there could be certain delays and difficulties. I hope there will be none. The 1992 delay occurred not because of the war in the gulf but because of recession in certain countries. We hope to obtain $400 million from the support group; that is reflected in the economic program. I hope this amount will be obtained with the support of the two leading countries within the support group, Japan and the United States, and with the support of the European countries.

[Reporter] President, when do you think the second support group will be established? By mid-1993?

[Fujimori] The letter of intent will be presented to the IMF on 15 January. We estimate that they could analyze it in about three weeks and then present it for consideration. Simultaneous contacts should be made with the various friendly countries to ensure that the amount anticipated comes from the support group.

Comments on Economy, Media Freedom

PA1701225293 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori announced the success of the government's negotiations with the IMF. The government signed a letter of intent with the IMF on 15 January to finance the economic program for the next three years. The program's fundamental objective is to attain peace in the country. Fujimori said the letter will help Peru obtain extended deadlines to pay its debt, and there will be a long grace period. We have his statements:

[Fujimori] "The Peruvian Government has just delivered its letter of intent to the IMF following technical negotiations. This letter of intent includes the government's economic program for a three-year period under conditions called extended fund facilities [preceding three words in English]. I want to explain to the public that as opposed to the previous programs, which were yearly standby programs, this agreement with the IMF involves a 30-year period."

According to the president, this is the last important step in Peru's return to the international financial system, a job that has been possible thanks to the excellent work done by the government's economic team, led by former Economy Minister Carlos Bolona and current Economy Minister Jorge Camet, who signed the agreement with Michel Camdessus. Fujimori said Peru will have to wait three more weeks until the IMF board approves the agreement, however, this is taken for granted.

[Fujimori] "Our goal is the country's peace. The government's economic program is designed with this purpose in mind. This means there should be a minimum of economic growth."

Once the Peruvian plan is approved, the government will begin clearing arrears with the international financial institutions to which Peru owes $850 million.

As for the statements made by Interior Minister General Juan Briones Davila, who told journalists the National Intelligence Service is investigating the media to determine the origin of certain reports he described as media terrorism. The president said the government will continue to respect freedom of the press, but also said he had his reservations about these reports.

[Fujimori] "I understand there is strict respect for freedom of the press and this will continue to be our policy. Naturally any information that does not match that of the intelligence services at the Interior and Defense Ministries must be duly evaluated."

As for the municipal elections, Fujimori said he is not concerned about the results of the latest surveys, which show ruling candidate Pablo Gutierrez in second and

third place. Fujimori said he supports Gutierrez because of his managerial capabilities demonstrated as mayor of Chorrillos.

[Fujimori] "I am not going to introduce him from any balcony or from any train. I am going to introduce him by talking about his managerial capabilities to handle the provincial municipality in which he has experience."

The president said the sale of AeroPeru to a Mexican company is positive because it was sold at twice its base price. He also talked about the granting of a credit for $16 million by the EEC to develop subsistence fishing in the Santa Rosa Cove.

Discusses Civilian Power Over Military

PA1901040793 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 93

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori guaranteed full respect for the freedom of the press, but said the National Intelligence Service will investigate reports that hurt national security. He said that political power rules over the military and that the president is the supreme commander of the Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] What I have said is that information, for example the report released by the OTAO [expansion unknown] about a supposed plot, has to be evaluated. It is only natural. Such evaluation must be carried out on an ongoing basis to determine whether or not the information is true. In this case, the information turned out to be completely false. That is what the intelligence service has told me.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] Absolutely not. They do, however, evaluate the news we receive because national security, just as in any democratic country in the world, prevails over any other consideration.

I repeat, when we hear this type of information, we ask the intelligence service about its veracity. If it is false, there is no problem. But I do want to point out—even though we will not intervene in this regard—that those media hurt the government by broadcasting information that is later misused by other media, including some news agencies, and hurt Peru's image.

[Reporter] Some analysts ask why there are so many ceremonies of support if nothing is going on in the Armed Forces or the National Police. This report that appeared in REUTER a few days ago quoting General Hermoza about a new coup being quelled, is it false as well?

[Fujimori] Gen. Hermoza's statements were not about his having quelled a new coup. He was referring to the coup attempt of 13 November 1992.

Actually, it is not exactly true that there is nothing going on. There is something going on. But what is happening is happening among some commands to which I have made direct allusions. They have, naturally, stated their nonconformity because the Armed Forces have taken a very clear position in support of the government.

I must say very clearly that military power is not above political power. I think that, at last, here in Peru the Armed Forces are being guided along that path. Obviously, there is the presence and command of the President of the Republic, who symbolizes political power over military power. [end recording]

Receives Guatemalan Foreign Minister

PA1901032693 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpts] President Alberto Fujimori was very busy today. This morning he received members of a Pan American Nikei organization. Afterward he received the Guatemalan foreign minister.

The Pan American delegation left the presidential palace at 1045 after meeting for 45 minutes with the first Latin American president of Japanese ancestry.

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Gonzalo Menendez Park arrived at the presidential palace at 1100 in the company of Peruvian Foreign Minister Oscar de la Puente and Guatemalan Ambassador to Peru Emilio Peralta.

After a protocol meeting, the dignitaries watched the traditional changing of the guard ceremony. [passage omitted]

Guatemalan Foreign Minister Menendez Park also visited Jaime Yoshiyama, president of the Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD], to whom he explained the progress the Guatemalan Government has made in the field of human rights and in the search for peace.

Menendez Park was accompanied by the Guatemalan ambassador. The meeting with Yoshiyama lasted 30 minutes. Menendez Park explained the efforts his government is making to consolidate peace, dialogue, and respect for human rights, such as the return of the Guatemalan citizens who live in Mexico.

[Begin Menendez Park recording] We have explained the progress that Guatemala has made in the field of human rights, the current situation, and the plans we have so the human rights of our citizens are respected in Guatemala. The second point was the situation of the Guatemalan refugees who are still in Mexico. We are working on a program aimed at allowing them to return to their country and to rejoin Guatemala's social, political, and economic life. [end recording]

Peru and Guatemala have signed an agreement by which diplomatic and special visas are suspended. The agreement signed by the foreign ministers of Peru and Guatemala will allow their diplomats and other officials to travel between the two countries without visas. The agreement included an exchange of notes creating the mutual commitment to cooperate with each other.

The agreement was signed at the Foreign Ministry. The ceremony was attended by Peru's interior, justice, and education ministers.

Army, Police Reaffirm Loyalty to Fujimori

PA1701133793 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Report by Vanessa Rios]

[Text] The Armed Forces and the National Police reaffirmed their unity and institutional solidarity while renewing their loyalty to President Alberto Fujimori at a ceremony that took place at Army General Headquarters.

The most senior commanders of each Army branch spoke at the beginning of the ceremony on the Mariscal Caceres patio at Army General Headquarters to reaffirm their loyalty and subordination to the president of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. They all rejected statements by people who, according to them, attempt to slander the Armed Forces, because this causes discord and indirectly helps terrorism.

[Begin General Manuel Dellepiani recording] We have been and will always be firmly together, with common hope and joint effort, to attain the peace for which we yearn so much. With this we know that we will forge the progress and development of our beloved Peru. [end recording]

When Gen. Nicolas de Bari Hermoza Rios, commander of the Armed Forces Joint Command and Army commander general, spoke, he addressed the defense and interior ministers, who were present; the Navy and Air Force general commanders; and the National Police director, initially expressing his gratitude. Later in his speech, he reaffirmed his commitment to serve the fatherland.

[Begin Hermoza recording, in progress] ...qualities and a vocation to serve are the basis for our institutions. This is why we cannot allow and we firmly reject that certain people, in an irresponsible manner, attempt to destroy this basis, which is the pillar of our military authority. We tell these people that their intentions will not succeed and that they will never be able to divide us or destroy our legal institutions. The best reply is the one that you give with your presence here. [end recording]

The march by units representing the Armed Forces and National Police marked the end of the ceremony, which was followed by a toast that was attended by President Alberto Fujimori.

Interior Minister on 'Media Terrorism Campaign'

PA1701201893 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Interior Minister Juan Briones Davila has condemned a media terrorism campaign against the Armed Forces and the Peruvian National Police. He said intelligence services will investigate media that issue biased reports on alleged unrest inside the Armed Forces.

[Begin recording] [Briones] They are interested in inflicting damage. I would like to ask certain persons to reflect on this. Peru's security is at stake. It seems they think they are finished with the Army. They finished with General Jaime Salinas, Gen. Arciniegas, and now they intend to create tension inside the Peruvian National Police. I believe this is extremely serious, and I believe they are playing the game of Shining Path and the terrorists. I believe we have to take this more seriously. We cannot release a report just like that to destabilize an institution. What is their goal? You must not forget that all of this is totally false.

[Unidentified reporter] An international news agency released the report.

[Briones] Who gives the information to the international news agency? I believe that report should not even have been released abroad. There are two intentions here. Come on, you have to help us on this. I do not know who is behind this, but I can say a campaign was carried out against the Army and the Navy. Gen. Salinas and Gen. Arciniegas were used in this campaign. Since nothing happened, they are now involving the Peruvian National Police. They are trying to confuse citizens, who become uneasy. [end recording]

MRTA Attacks Peruvian-American Institute

PA1701210293 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2017 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Lima, 17 Jan (EFE)—Two rockets fired with rifles by alleged activists of the pro-Guevara Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) exploded at the Peruvian-American Cultural Institute in Lima, it was reported on 17 January in the capital.

The rockets, fired by two persons on 16 January from a distance of 100 meters, entered through a window and fell inside a second floor room, damaging the furniture and some files. According to police sources, no one was present when the attack occurred because the English classes given there had not started.

The sources added that one of the persons who attacked the institute, located in downtown on Arequipa Avenue, was injured when the firing of a third rocket failed and exploded. The sources also said the two alleged "Tupac Amarus" fled on a motorcycle.

On 14 January the MRTA claimed responsibility for a failed rocket attack on the Government Palace, located near Plaza de Armas in downtown Lima.

A teenager who was close to the site of the rocket attack sustained injuries when the firing mechanism failed and the device exploded.

The police also reported 47 persons were arrested on 16 January on suspicion of being terrorist band members. The arrests occurred when security forces launched an operation in Villa El Salvador, a low-income housing area in Lima, which the Maoist band Shining Path has presumably infiltrated.

Candidate, Community Leader Killed in Huaura

PA1801160993 Lima Panamericana Television Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Text] A candidate for the regional assembly and a community leader in Huaura were found dead on 18 January. They were kidnapped on the night of 17 January, and their bullet-riddled bodies were found on 18 January.

The victims were identified as Martin Berrocal, candidate for the regional assembly for the Urban and Depressed Areas Integration [Integracion Urbano Marginal] independent list and Huaura community leader Arturo Porfirio Moreno.

In another action, two women shot community leader Miguel Galindo Cabezas, 76, in front of his residence on 18 January. Galindo, who was a member of the Defense Committee in Huaycan, died on his way to the Vitarte Hospital.

Arciniegas Flies to Buenos Aires Under Asylum

PA1501164193 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jan 93

[Text] Retired General Alberto Arciniegas is in Argentina after spending one week under asylum in the Argentine Embassy in Peru. At 0237 on 13 January, Gen. Alberto Arciniegas left the Argentine Embassy to head for the international airport and asylum in Argentina. The former military supreme justice president left our country after the government granted him a safe conduct. He was bound for Argentina, where he has been granted asylum. Moments before his departure from the embassy, Foreign Ministry and embassy officials coordinated the latest details his asylum.

Arciniegas was taken to the airport in an Argentine Embassy diplomatic vehicle, escorted by a few police units. At the airport, Arciniegas boarded an Argentine Airline airplane, which after some delay took him to Buenos Aires.

Both Arciniegas and Ret. Gen. Luis Cisneros are charged with insulting the Army and their superiors. The Peruvian Government reserves the right to request their extradition, if our judicial authorities so decide.

Uruguay

Government Position on Persian Gulf Situation

PY1601122893 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 0900 GMT 16 Jan 93

[Text] A communique issued by the Foreign Ministry Press Office states that the Uruguayan Government deeply regrets the situation created in the Persian Gulf because the Iraqi Government has failed to comply with UN Security Council resolutions. In this regard, it reaffirms its support for all those actions adopted within the framework of the resolutions so that they can be strictly observed.

The Uruguayan Government also hopes that the Iraqi Government will adopt an attitude that will lead to a solution to guarantee peace and security in the region, as was already expressed by the international community.

We repeat that this is the official Uruguayan position with respect to the Persian Gulf conflict.

Venezuela

Supreme Court Suspends Trials of Coupists

PA1501181293 Paris AFP in Spanish 1523 GMT 15 Jan 93

[Text] Caracas, 15 Jan (AFP)— On the evening of 14 January the Supreme Court of Justice suspended the extraordinary trials of 58 men implicated in the failed coup of 27 November, after it agreed to hear a petition to nullify the trials ordered by President Carlos Andres Perez on the grounds they are unconstitutional.

Gathered in an extraordinary session, the justices decided to protect the accused by suspending the trials against them by the War Council "until we rule on the petition to declare null the presidential decree that ordered the very summary and secret trials," judicial sources reported in Caracas.

The opinion by Justice Alirio Abreu Brullei, approved by 14 votes in favor and one abstention, considers declaring the petition to nullify Decree 2669 an urgent matter.

The persons filing the amparo petition argued that the extraordinary process violates the right to counsel and the right to be tried by regular judges, as contained in the Constitution.

On 13 January the War Council sentenced approximately 100 civilians and soldiers charged with military rebellion with up to 20 years in jail.

The law states the defendants have a three-day period, which ends 18 January, following the publication of the War Council's decisions—which also acquitted approximately 100 persons—to file a petition to have the sentences nullified or annulled.

If the Supreme Court rules in favor of the petition, the trial will be transferred to a court martial. As the highest ranking defendant is a rear admiral, the other defendants would be tried with him, as long as the charge of military rebellion leveled against them is proven.

Defense lawyers of the alleged coupists told AFP that to bring the case back to a court martial could create a conflict regarding whether a military court or a regular court has jurisdiction over the case, since there are civilians accused.

Perez Restores One Constitutional Guarantee

PA1701030493 Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 17 Jan 93

[Text] Caracas, 16 Jan (AFP)—On 16 January President Carlos Andres Perez restored one of the two constitutional guarantees that have been suspended since the foiled 27 November coup d'etat. It also suspended, however, other guarantees in Sucre State, located on the eastern part of the country, it was reported by official sources.

No one may be arrested without a warrant, as stated in Article 60 of the Constitution, although the guarantee about the inviolability of a person's home is still suspended.

The government decreed a curfew and suspended the right to meet and participate in demonstrations in Sucre State, following the riots caused by the presence of two governors—one proclaimed by the Electoral Board which handled the 6 December 1992 governorate and municipal elections, and the one sworn in by the regional Legislative Assembly.

Suspends Guarantees in Sucre State

PA1801173093 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 1550 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Report by Roberto Giusti, media chief for the Miraflores Palace]

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez—in exercising his power based on Point 6, Article 190 of the Constitution and in accordance with Articles 241 and 242—noting at a Council of Ministers meeting that it is the executive branch's duty to prevent actions that could result in grave disruptions to internal public order or that could endanger the lives or tranquility of persons and that the Sucre State governor's mandate ended on 12 January and neither the final results of the 6 December 1992 elections nor the name of the new governor of that state have been disclosed yet—evidently altering institutional normalcy and causing collective unrest that could result in social disturbances—decrees:

Article 1. Guarantees established in Articles 64, 71, and 115 of the Constitution are hereby suspended.

Article 2. This decree will be subject to review by the delegate congressional commission within 10 days following its publication.

Article 3. The ministers concerned will be in charge of implementing this decree.

[Signed] President Carlos Andres Perez

Carmona Replaces Pinerua as Interior Minister

PA1901010693 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 18 Jan 93

[Report by Johnny Ficarela]

[Text] On the afternoon of 18 January, new Interior Minister Jesus Ramon Carmona assumed his post. The ceremony was held at the Interior Ministry, where the new minister explained some of his plans in the areas of decentralization, political parties, and electoral law reform. Minister Carmona spoke of the present situation in Sucre State.

[Begin Carmona recording] The suspense, disquiet, and anxiety in Sucre were not just thought up by the government. You are aware of them as media that reflect and register national events. They have been noted by high-ranking personalities in the country, such as the bishop of that diocese, economic groups, the prosecutor general of the Republic, and political leaders. The government's response to this situation has been to be neutral, while taking preventive action. It has been neutral because the circumstances resulting from the December elections in Sucre are outside the purview of the Executive Branch. [end recording]

Departing Minister Luis Pinerua Ordaz gave a summary of his performance.

[Begin Pinerua recording] My basic mission as a minister—and this was the reason for the appeal that all the country's political sectors made to me—was to guarantee, or help to guarantee, the stability of the system of democratic government. I am certain, and proud, of having done my duty. [end recording]

Interior Minister Jesus Ramon Carmona said that he will be in the post for only one year, during which he expects to meet all his goals.

Bishops Conference Calls for Reconciliation

PA1501174193 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 13 Jan 93

[Text] The Catholic Church has proposed reconciliation as a means for attaining greater tranquillity and peace, which will allow solid development in the country.

The proposal was made on 13 January by Monsignor Ovidio Perez Morales, president of the Bishops Conference, as he left Miraflores Presidential Palace where he delivered to President Carlos Andres Perez the final document of the recent Bishops Conference. The Bishop

said the document presents several recommendations in an effort to find a solution to the country's crisis, a task that concerns everyone in the government, as well as national organizations and officials.

He emphasized the reconciliation they are proposing to the country can undoubtedly take place in a democracy, and it does not exclude anyone. On the contrary, it entails pluralism, controversy, and discussion, all within a nonviolent atmosphere.

[Begin Perez Morales recording] We are advocating a country where there will be greater freedom, justice, solidarity, and honesty. Our path is the path that the church must follow, that is, the path of peace and understanding. The church defines itself as an instrument of unity and reconciliation, of man with God and of man with each other. This has become evident in Latin America where we see how people have searched for agreements, even in the most conflictive situations. The path to follow is the truth. We are not playing games. We must be in solidarity, but with a high sense of fraternity. We are sure this is possible, even in the most conflictive situations, and we must find the path. [end recording]

* Chronology of Frustrated Coup Attempt Described

93SM0108A Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 28 Nov 92 p C1

[Article by Victor Rodriguez Coa]

[Text] Those taking part in the coup of 27 November learned a lesson from those involved in the coup of 4 February, but they applied it poorly.

If Don Gato [Comandante Gato, 27 November 1992 rebel leader] and his gang wanted to go down in history as perfectly unknown people after having had control of a hookup of three television channels for two hours and 36 minutes, they succeeded astonishingly well. They also succeeded in occupying the attention of the country during that time and annoyed those who had to walk to work. And they will be blamed for their dead. They are guilty of the litany of errors which politicians have made throughout history, who set out to defend democracy and the institutional structure of the country through the communications media. But you did not see them on any street corner, associating with ordinary people, talking the usual nonsense, or running in front of the police, or breathing tear gas. God protect us from smarting eyes!

From Early in the Morning

At 0505 on 27 November the telephone rang, and a sleepy voice was heard: "Turn on TV. The members of the Bolivar Movement have taken over Channels 8 and 5. A coup d'etat is under way."

From then on the signs continued. Hugo Chavez Frias, "now and forever" [leader of the 4 February uprising] announced the "fall of the tyrant and the end of this ignominy." The message lasted for four minutes, immediately followed by the national anthem. This was the way it was until exactly 0626. During that time six yellow patrols of the DISIP [Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services] passed by, hurrying along the Boulevard Peraza de Santa Monica. Gunfire was heard in the direction of Miraflores Palace.

At two seconds past 0626 a soldier with his sleeves rolled up, guerrilla fashion, introduced a new party in the "revolutionary movement." At that moment the Venezuelan people up that early in the morning first realized that there was a 5 July Movement. Standing behind the soldier, like a civilian special assistant, was a little fat guy with an FAL rifle and another little fat guy without an FAL rifle. There were shouts of "Long live Ezequiel Zamora" and some other heroes of the independence period. At that moment planes began to fly overhead.

At 0627 Chavez returned, announcing in that part of the recorded program that a patriotic junta would take charge of things. What things! Comandante Gato told his listeners: "Follow the example that Caracas has given." Then came the national anthem. Planes flew over again and again.

There were one, two, three explosions.

At 0633, Chavez reappeared on television, there was another statement of "now and forever," followed by the national anthem and shots.

At 0638 the officer with the sleeves rolled up appeared again.

At 0640, the national anthem.

At 0644 Chavez with the banner of his MBR-200 [Mobile Reconnaissance Battalion 200] behind him. Four minutes later there was total silence, while the pigeons on the roof sounded off with their melancholy cooing sounds.

At 0650 Chavez was back without any audio, and then his image disappeared. The little fat guy without the FAL rifle spoke, but he stopped immediately as if to give way to someone else. The logo of the Venezuelan TV Service disappeared.

At 0652 the officer with his sleeves rolled up returned and spoke in the name of the 5 July Movement. He asked the people to go out into the streets to complete the defeat of the government. The people paid no attention to him.

At 0653 Chavez appeared again without any audio.

At 0705 the officer with the rolled up sleeves called on his comrades (sic) of the National Guard, "which disgusts us," to stop attacking.

At 0713 the little fat guy without the FAL rifle once again, this time live, with an incoherent speech on the rich and the poor. He said that they were eating, but we were not.

The Unsuccessful Big Casserole

At 0718 some neighbors tried unsuccessfully to prepare a big casserole. These preparations stopped as if by magic when at 0720 President Carlos Andres Perez appeared with his face looking as if he had just had a cup of freshly brewed coffee. He announced that since 0700 everything had been under the control of loyal forces. He admitted that three soldiers had been killed at Miraflores Palace and he said that he was working in his office in the palace. He added that what was being transmitted on television was a video recording, because Chavez and the others in fact were in jail.

The president added that no one was overthrowing him, and he showed a picture of one of his determined supporters from his campaign in 1973. He promised that he would still make his planned trip to Buenos Aires, although he was coming down with a cold.

At 0736 Chavez appeared again on the channel.

Saving Democracy

At 0739 Eduardo Fernandez [secretary general of the Social Christian Party] appeared on Venezuelan Television to save Democracy. He seemed more sure of himself and more credible. He ended up by calling on the people to vote on 6 December.

Rodolfo Schmidt [journalist] explained what happened when Channel 8, Venevision [a different television channel, and RCTV [National Radio and Television Chain] were taken over. Televen [still another channel] was not taken over because its antenna was on El Cuno mountain, while the antennas of the other channels were on Los Mecedores mountain.

At 0749 the planes continued flying back and forth overhead. At this point in the film no one knew which ones were the good guys and which ones were the bad guys. It was a scene worthy of an Atari video cassette.

At 0756 President Carlos Andres Perez returned to the screen, interviewed by Raquel Garcia from the "El Noticiero" [News] program on Televen.

At 0800 Antonio Ledezma [Caracas Federal District Governor] appeared on Televen to say that he was alive and well. His speech logically saved the skin of Democracy.

At 0812 Rodolfo Schmidt read cables which were being sent by the international news agencies. The signals of Channels 2, 4, and 8 had already been blocked off the air.

At 0817 planes continued to trail smoke and leave contrails in the sky. Carlos Canache Mata [leader of the AD—Democratic Action Party] appeared on TV and said what his prescription was to save the country.

He said: "I come from the office of the MRI [Ministry of the Interior]. Pinerua [Luis Pinerua Ordaz, minister of the interior] was not there. From the Carmelitas to the Televen television channels no one has paid any attention to the call for a rebellion. The people are not stupid. They remained calm." Then there was an interruption.

Avoiding a Bloodbath

Then the minister of defense [Maj Gen Ivan Dario Jimenez Sanchez] came in on the audio, via telephone. He said that they are being forced to shoot down the planes. He called for everyone to avoid a bloodbath. A center of the rebellion is at El Libertador [The Liberator] air base. Jimenez Sanchez explained that the Army was about to capture the air base. He said that if the Mirage fighters continued firing, we will use anti-aircraft artillery. Already the F-16 fighters are chasing them. Jimenez went on threatening to use anti-aircraft artillery all day long. And the planes fired what they fired.

At 0835 Canache returned to the screen.

At 0836 it was the turn of Paulina Gamus [AD deputy], with dark circles under her eyes. She reflected on the feelings of civic responsibility of the Venezuelan people.

Shift to Arturo Vilar [reporter]. Shift to Rodolfo Schmidt, without any audio.

At 0841 the takeoff of the C-8 aircraft was announced.

At 0848 shots were heard near the Helicoide [spiral] on the Roca Tarpeya [Tarpeian Rock], and a single bomb aimed at nothing exploded.

At 0852 Minister of the Interior Pinerua showed signs of life and spoke from the OCI [Central Information Office]. He assured his listeners that the small group involved in the attempted coup d'etat had been defeated. He used one of his favorite words: "retrotraer" [bring back]. His anticommunist message that they are coming to eat children was short.

At 0855 Jenny Silva [journalist] asked for ambulances to take the wounded away from the Channel 8 studio.

Comandante Gato

At 0900 Rodolfo Schmidt said that the leader of the rebels was Comandante Gato, who was asking for cocoa and was calling Ramon Escovar Salom [public prosecutor/ombudsman]. Rodolfo Schmidt mentioned a statement by Comandante Gato to AFP. They were taking part in an insurrectionary uprising which followed on that of 5 July. He expressed "Third Way" thoughts, like a rejuvenated form of remarks by [Peruvian President] Fujimori, referred to the "Red Flag," the neobolshevik international section, and socialized, Zamora-type comments after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

At 0902 Hilarion Cardozo [Social Christian Party president] joined in the litany on respect for our institutions and the salvation of Democracy.

At 0908 Comandante Gato again asked for the public prosecutor [Escovar Salom] to be present.

At 0913 there was an attack on El Cuno mountain. Reinforcements were requested.

At 0919 Cheito Herrera [unknown] spoke over the telephone and said that the Office of the Public Prosecutor has been involved in the matter for the past half hour.

At 0931 another bomb exploded on the Helicoide.

At about 1000 aircraft continued firing against Miraflores Palace. Hundreds of persons in the remodeled Plaza O'Leary shouted at the shots in the favorite style of TV, saying, "Ohlay!" [as at a bull fight].

And a woman asked: "And what are they cheering for when it is only three little aircraft which are firing [at the palace]?"

And another woman answered her: "The fact is that Venezuela has six aircraft: three are with the government and three with the rebels."

Guyana

Jagan Assesses First 100 Days in Office

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[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 15, CANA—The three-month-old government of Guyana says it has been able to cut waste, end squandermania, take steps to lower the cost of living, and tightened management systems since its October 5 general election victory.

President Cheddi Jagan, assessing his first 100 days in office here Friday, [15 January] told reporters the New People's Progressive Party/Civic (PPP/Civic) government had also raised pensions, secured assistance worth G642 million dollars for a school feeding and food-for-work programme, and consolidated Guyana's agricultural drive. He said the government could have achieved more in its first 100 days, but had to spend considerable time in non-development and time wasting activities, including chasing after some citizens to collect taxes and revenues and trying to recover stolen government property and assets.

"This takes up a lot of energy of ministers.... And the whole government, so we would have hoped we would have had a more peaceful transition which you find all over the Caribbean," said President Jagan.

"Then we wouldn't have to spend so much energy on these extraneous activities, which we nevertheless had to put right if we were to raise the kind of money we need to not only improve the wages and salaries in the (public) service, but also to improve social services," he said.

Jagan added: "We are sorry that we have to spend so much time on all of these kinds of activities which is diverting attention of ministers in dealing with the major question which face the country."

He said government had tried to lower the cost of living and attempted to get the people more involved in mobilising social capital for people to run their own affairs.